TOTAL FOOTBALL

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE **ROUND EIGHT** SEASON 2005-06

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MELBOURNE VICTORY
VS
SYDNEY FC

Olympic Park, October 16

AUSTRALIA FOOTBALL

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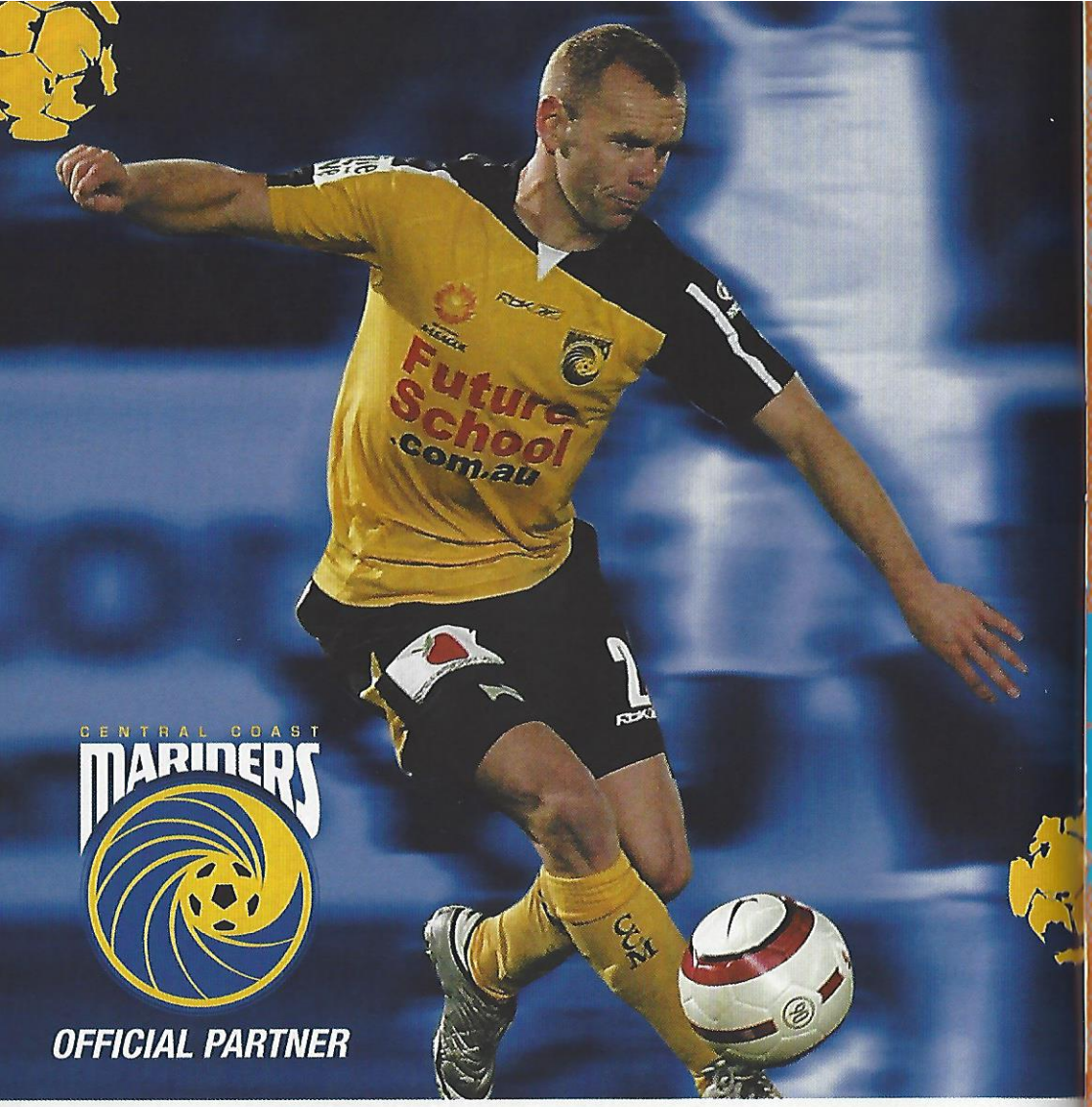

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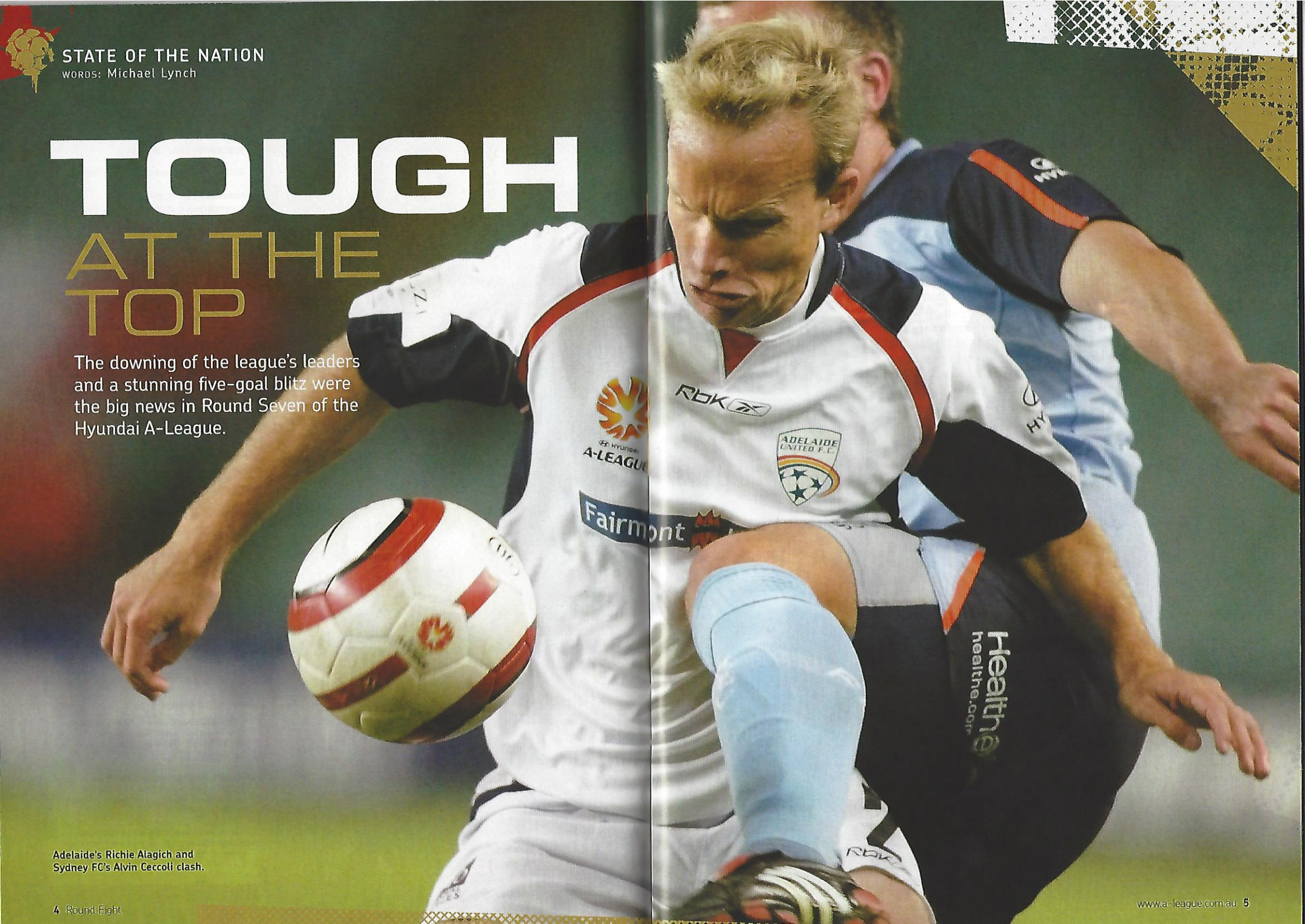
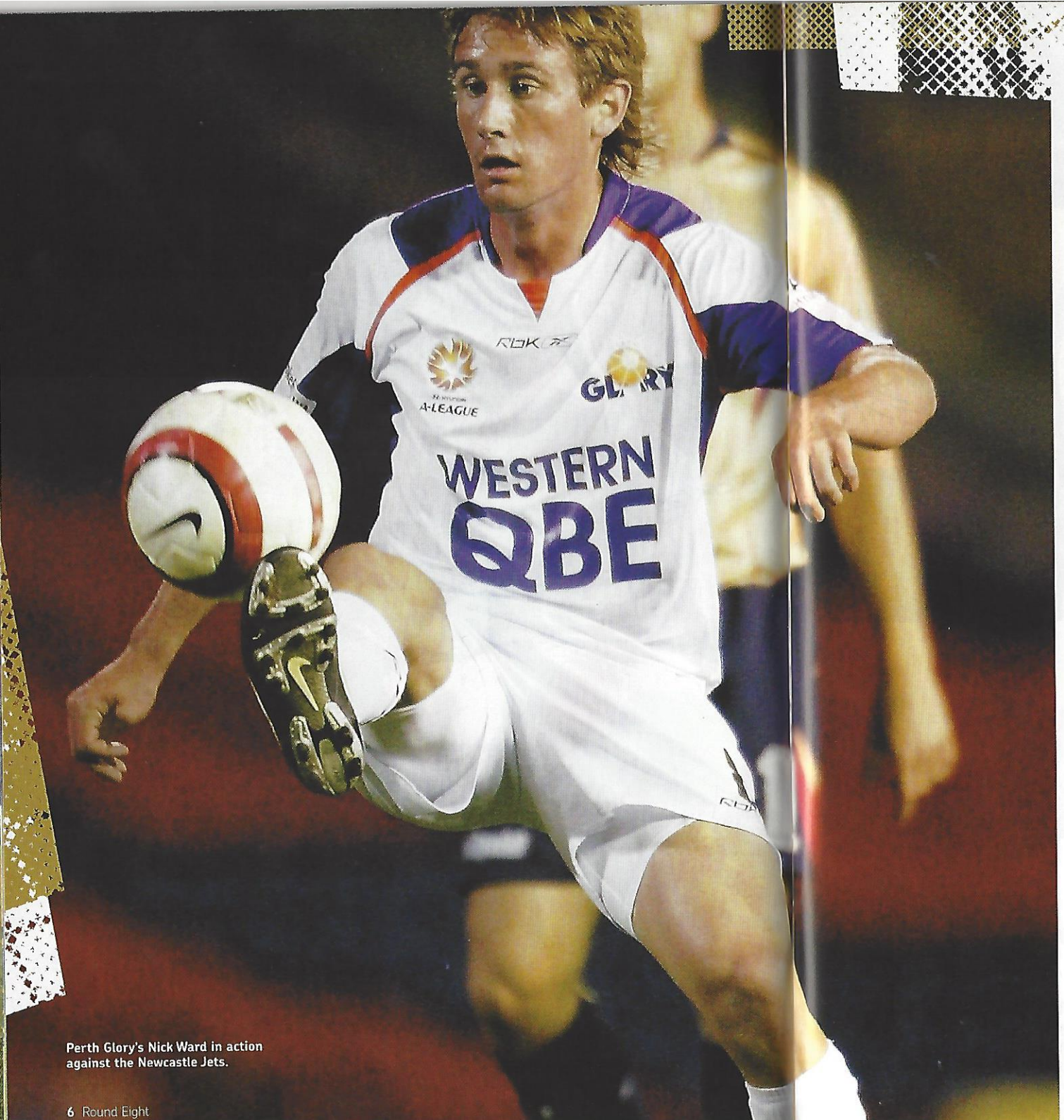
WORDS: Michael Lynch

TOUGH AT THE TOP

The downing of the league's leaders and a stunning five-goal blitz were the big news in Round Seven of the Hyundai A-League.



Adelaide's Richie Alagich and Sydney FC's Alvin Ceccoli clash.



Perth Glory's Nick Ward in action against the Newcastle Jets.

Adelaide United's unbeaten run finally came to an end in controversial circumstances in Sydney, and Melbourne Victory made it three on the trot when they comfortably despatched the New Zealand Knights in the Hyundai A-League's first Monday night game at Olympic Park.

Perth Glory showed how comfortable they are on the road when they smashed five past an undermanned Newcastle Jets, while Queensland Roar and Central Coast Mariners split the points in an entertaining contest at Suncorp Stadium in front of another impressive crowd of passionate Queenslanders.

These were the highlights of Round Seven as the inaugural Hyundai A-League season reached its one-third mark. All teams have now played each other. At this point Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne have broken a game clear of the pack, with Perth close behind in fourth position and Queensland and Central Coast on their heels.

The curse of the home teams struck once more when Newcastle Jets crashed to their third home loss from five matches against a rampaging Perth Glory, going down 5-1. This was the first time any Hyundai A-League club has struck five goals in one match, and it was the highest scoring aggregate game in the competition so far.

Perth know exactly how the Jets feel losing at home, having lost three of the four matches they have played at their own Members Equity Stadium. But the West Australians were in no mood to be generous as evergreen striker Damian Mori (two), captain Jamie Harnwell, Bobby Despotovski and substitute Naum Sekulovski were all on target for the visitors. Franco Parisi notched one for the Jets, but it was merely a consolation as they were 4-0 down at the time.

Newcastle was badly depleted by injury (Ante Milicic and Richard Johnson were missing after picking up injuries in the home defeat against Queensland in Round Six), absence through international duty (defender Jade North was away with the Qantas Socceroos for the game against Jamaica) and suspension (Nick Carle was ruled out after being sent off against the Roar). But nobody expected them to capitulate with this sort of scoreline.

Steve McMahon, the Perth manager, opted to leave well-credentialled English import Brian Deane out of the starting line-up, and the big striker remained on the bench for the entire game.

Instead, McMahon reunited the potent pairing of Despotovski and Mori that powered Perth to such success in the old national league, and he didn't have to wait long for his judgement to be vindicated when Mori put Perth in front in the 33rd minute.

The 35-year-old, who signed for Perth barely two weeks ago and is still living in Adelaide, struck his second, and Perth's fourth, 30 minutes later to put the result beyond doubt. Despotovski went to the top of the goalscorer's table with his

Queensland Roar celebrate Hyuk-Su Seo's goal against Central Coast.

fifth goal in seven games, and the win put Perth into the top four.

A day earlier, Queensland Roar and Central Coast Mariners played out an entertaining 1-1 draw to both keep themselves in touch with a top-four position. More than 13,000 fans looked on as Mariners skipper Noel Spencer gave the visitors the lead shortly before half-time with a header from a Matthew Osman corner.

But the Roar got back on terms in the 57th minute with a stunning goal from Korean import Hyuk-Su Seo. It was a strike that could be a contender for goal of the season after the midfielder picked up the ball in space and then drilled a venomous shot past Central Coast goalkeeper Danny Vukovic from outside the penalty area.

The Roar had the best of this game, with strikers Alex Brosque and Jonty Richter prominent, but paid the penalty for failing to capitalise on their chances. The Mariners, unlucky to drop three points at home the week before, got their reward when they hung on for a share of the points after Vukovic saved a header from substitute Michael Baird and the Roar's Josh McGloughlan missed with a late header from close range.

In the top-of-the-table clash in Sydney, it was the New South Wales side that came out on top. Sasho Petrovski's late winner sealed all three points for Sydney and inflicted Adelaide's first defeat of the season. It was the third win in a row for Pierre Littbarski's side and Sydney's first at home in front of another strong crowd of more than 18,000 people at Aussie Statidum.

If the first half took a while to get going, things ignited in the second when Adelaide took the lead through big center-half Mike Valkanis in the 51st minute. But the lead was only short-lived, as Sydney midfielder David Carney took advantage of a Daniel Beltrame fumble to notch up the equaliser.

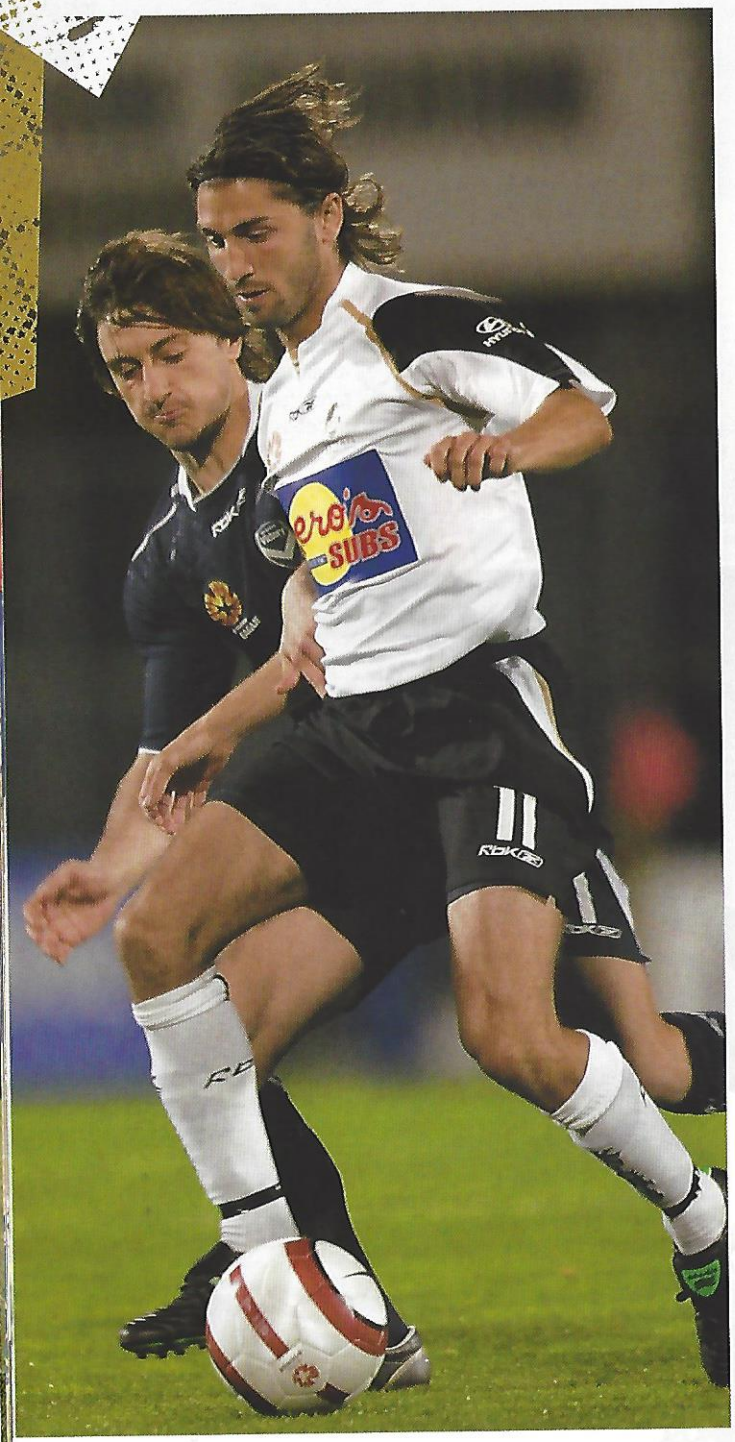
Things looked to be heading for a stalemate until the 88th minute when Petrovski pounced to steer home the winner, proving to any sceptics that Sydney could win without their key forward Dwight Yorke, who was away on international duty.

There was more controversy to come, when a 90th-minute header from Shengqing Qu looked to have crossed the line before being scrambled away, with the Adelaide players claiming that Sydney's teenage defender Jacob Timpano had handled the ball. Adelaide coach John Kosmina, smarting at the loss of a point, claimed that "the forces of the universe" had conspired against his team and that Sydney had indulged in theatrics to win free kicks.

No such arguments in Melbourne when a very impressive crowd of more than 11,000 turned up at Olympic Park for a Hyundai A-League first: Monday night football. They were not disappointed when the home team ran out easy 3-0 winners thanks to goals from Austrian Richard Kitzbichler, skipper Kevin Muscat (his second of the season) and substitute Ricky Diaco, his first-ever goal in the Hyundai A-League.

Kitzbichler, who has played 17 times for his country, was in tremendous form; his ability to

Sydney FC's Sasho Petrovski after scoring the winning goal against Adelaide United.



New Zealand's Zenon Caravella and Melbourne's Michael Ferrante do battle.

run directly at opponents with pace tore gaping holes in the Knights' defence. In a man-of-the-match performance, he drove home Melbourne's first-half opener, created its third with a dribble and cross down the right, and caused problems for the visitors all night.

Muscat, better known as a defender, linked beautifully with Diaco to slice open the NZ defence for Victory's second. The Knights were without skipper Danny Hay and the suspended Simon Yeo, and will now lose stand-in captain Neil Emblen, who limped off with a leg injury after just 16 minutes.

Friday October 14

ADELAIDE UNITED VS NEWCASTLE JETS

Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide

Newcastle coach Richard Money will be desperately hoping Ante Milicic and Richard Johnson will be available for Friday night's visit to Adelaide as the Jets try to regain form and take revenge on the South Australians, who won 1-0 at EnergyAustralia stadium in the very first match of the Hyundai A-League season. Milicic has been troubled by hamstring problems, while Johnson missed the Round Seven loss to Perth because of a thigh injury.
Nick Carle will be back from suspension, while Jade North will have returned from international duty, so the Jets side could have a very different look.

Adelaide lost key playmaker Ross Aloisi in the game against Sydney in the 12th minute with an ankle injury, and Kosmina will be hopeful the veteran is able to

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recover for this game. Aloisi has been an influential figure in the South Australians' march to the top of the table and would be sorely missed, although Brazilian Fernando Rech could drop back in his place.

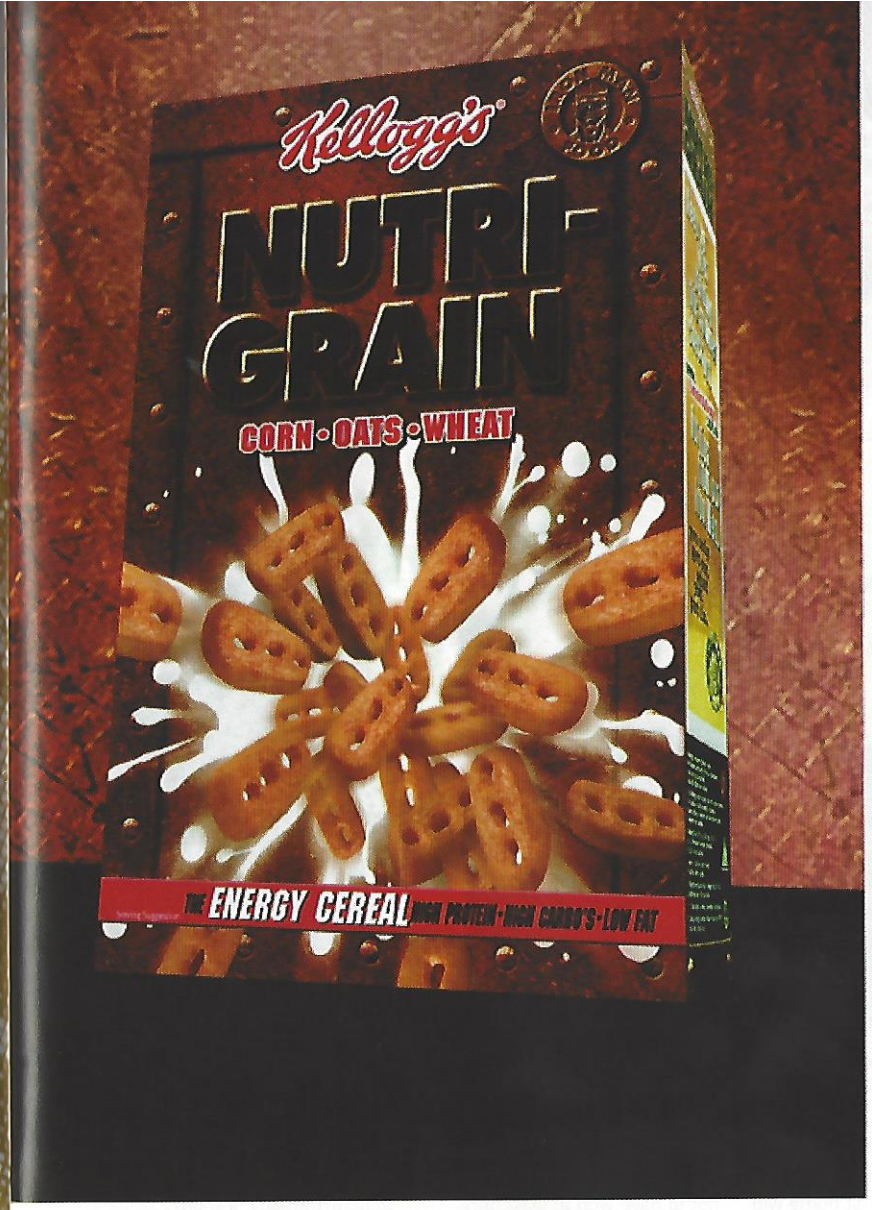
Sunday October 16
MELBOURNE VICTORY VS SYDNEY FC
Olympic Park, Melbourne
Sunday begins with the blockbuster clash at Olympic Park in Melbourne between second-placed Sydney and third-placed Melbourne. These two are the form teams of the Hyundai A-League, both having taken nine points from their last three games. Melbourne has scored six goals in the process and conceded only one, while Sydney has struck seven and let in three in the same sequence. Sydney, with 14 goals in its seven matches (two a game) is the league's top scorer, but with 10 conceded it gives opposing teams a chance. Melbourne has netted 10 times, but also has the competition's second-best defensive record, conceding just six. Victory will welcome back Archie Thompson this weekend, and if Merrick can fit him and Kitzbichler into the same starting 11, the bumper crowd should be in for some terrific entertainment.

Sunday October 16
CENTRAL COAST MARINERS VS PERTH GLORY
Central Coast Stadium, Gosford
Perth Glory is on the road again, this time in Gosford, coming up against a Central Coast Mariners side still seeking its first home win of the season. The Mariners will have few fears about Perth, having beaten the Glory 1-0 in both the pre-season competition and the first round proper, when Noel Spencer's tremendous long-range strike separated the teams.

Nevertheless, Perth will take huge confidence out of their win in Newcastle, and with Mori and Despotovski picking up just where they left off in the old national league, the Glory will fancy their chances of making it two on the trot. Brian Deane may have to cool his heels on the bench again for another week if McMahon decides not to tinker with a winning line-up, although Simon Colosimo, away on international duty with the Qantas Socceroos last weekend, would expect to come back into the team.

Sunday October 16
NEW ZEALAND KNIGHTS VS QUEENSLAND ROAR
North Harbour Stadium, Auckland
The New Zealand Knights, marooned at the bottom of the table, know that if they can't turn things around soon

Central Coast's Dean Heffernan putting the ball in play.



NEW ZEALAND KNIGHTS FOOTBALL CLUB

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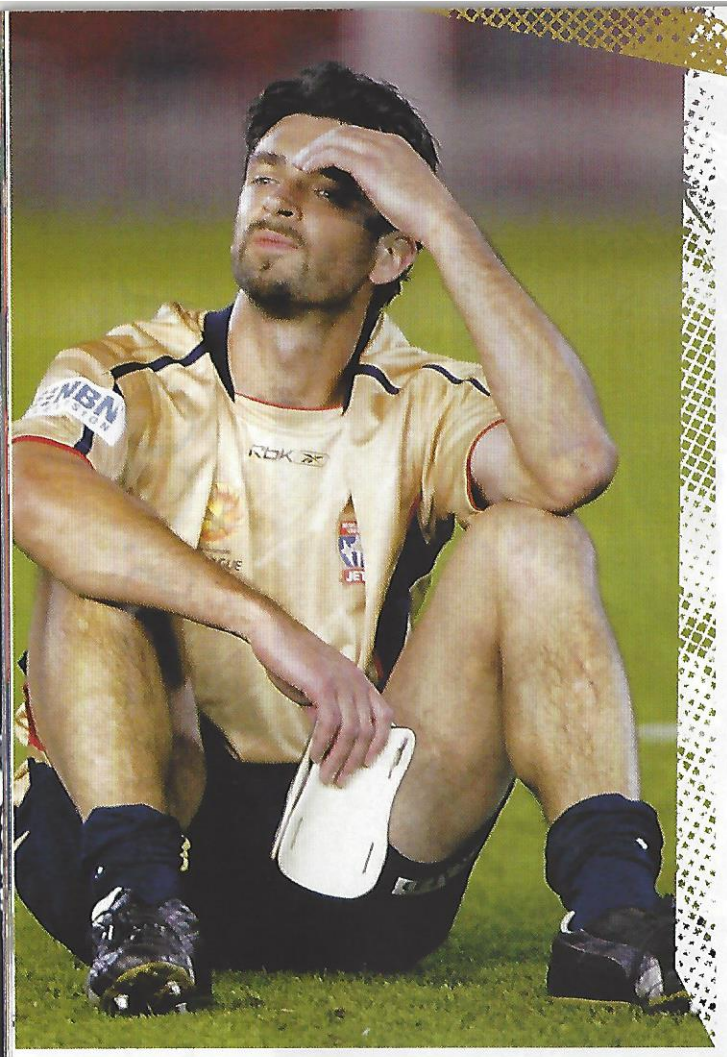
Kelloggs is proud to be the Official Breakfast Supplier to the New Zealand Knights Football Club. This partnership includes naming rights of the Nutri-Grain Allstar Cheerleaders who will perform pre-match and at half time at North Harbour Stadium. Children attending the Knights matches will also be able to take part in the Coco Pops Cheerleader Dance Classes. Kellogg's has a philosophy of encouraging men, women, boys and girls to be active as well as eating a balanced diet. By supporting the New Zealand Knights, Kellogg's aims to help inspire young football players to follow their dreams and achieve all of their goals - as many of the New Zealand Knights are currently doing.



Ned Zelic ponders Newcastle's 5-1 loss to Perth Glory.

Victory's Richard Kitzbichler celebrates a goal.

the season will have slipped away from them. They are still searching for their first home win and will entertain Queensland Roar at North Harbour Stadium in Auckland looking for a real change of luck.

Knights coach John Adshead will get key striker Simon Yeo back from suspension, but there are fears that stand-in skipper Neil Emblen could be out for some time with a suspected medial ligament injury. The Knights have put together some good spells and are unlucky not to have won at least once at home this year, but bad luck often haunts teams struggling to make a breakthrough.

The Roar defeated the Knights 2-0 in their corresponding first-round fixture and are travelling well enough in fifth place on the table, a point behind Perth Glory. Miron Bleiberg's youthful squad is brimming with enthusiasm and, having played all seven opponents, knows it has nothing to fear from any of them. Queensland will be without striker Reece Tollenaere for at least the next six weeks after he suffered a triple fracture of the cheekbone after an accidental clash of heads with Mariners defender Andrew Clark in their Round Seven match.

Michael Lynch is chief football writer for The Age *in Melbourne.*

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE - ROUND 7 REVIEW

QUEENSLAND ROAR 1 (Hyuk-Su Seo 56') **CENTRAL COAST MARINERS 1** (Noel Spencer 41') Crowd: 13,195

NEWCASTLE JETS 1 (Franco Parisi 71') **PERTH GLORY 5** (Damian Mori 33'/62', Jamie Harnwell 46', Bobby Despotovski 52', Naum Sekulovski 81') Crowd: 5,868

SYDNEY FC 2 (David Carney 53', Sasho Petrovski 87') **ADELAIDE UNITED 1** (Michael Valkanis 50') Crowd: 18,276

MELBOURNE VICTORY 3 (Richard Kitzbichler 24', Kevin Muscat 62', Ricky Diaco 64') **NEW ZEALAND 0** Crowd: 11,010

TABLE

	Played	Win	Draw	Loss	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Adelaide United FC	7	4	2	1	8	5	3	14
Sydney FC	7	4	1	2	14	10	4	13
Melbourne Victory	7	3	3	1	10	6	4	12
Perth Glory	7	3	1	3	12	9	3	10
Queensland Roar	7	2	3	2	7	7	0	9
Central Coast Mariners	7	2	3	2	8	9	-1	9
Newcastle Jets	7	2	1	4	8	10	-2	7
New Zealand Knights	7	1	0	6	4	15	-11	3

INDIVIDUAL STATS PROVIDED BY SPORTSDATA

Goals		Goal Assists		Fouls Conceded		Tackles	
Bobby Despotovski (PG)	5	Nick Carle (NJ)	3	Ross Aloisi (AUFC)	17	Kevin Muscat (MV)	37
Dwight Yorke (SFC)	4	Jamie Coyne (PG)	3	Travis Dodd (AUFC)	17	Michael Beauchamp (CCM)	34
Archie Thompson (MV)	3	Alex Brosque (QR)	2	Steve Pantelidis (MV)	17	Angelo Costanzo (AUFC)	33
Noel Spencer (CCM)	3	Simon Colosimo (PG)	2	Stewart Petrie (CCM)	17	Steve Pantelidis (MV)	33
Michael Baird (QR)	2	Steve Corica (SFC)	2	Sasho Petrovski (SFC)	16	Andrew Clark (CCM)	32
Steve Corica (SFC)	2	Sean Devine (NZK)	2	Simon Colosimo (PG)	15	Simon Colosimo (PG)	31
Ante Milicic (NUJ)	2	Andrew Packer (SFC)	2	Nick Carle (NJ)	14	Hyuk-Su Seo (QR)	28
Stewart Petrie (CCM)	2	Kristian Sarkies (MV)	2	Angelo Costanzo (AUFC)	14	Alvin Ceccoli (SFC)	24
Warren Moon (QR)	2	Qu Shengqing (AUFC)	2	Terry McFlynn (SFC)	14	Geoffrey Claeys (MV)	26
Shengqing Qu (AU)	2	Ufuk Talay (SFC)	2	Kristian Rees (AUFC)	14	Josh McCloughan (QR)	24
Simon Yeo (NZK)	2						

TEAM STATS PROVIDED BY SPORTSDATA

Goals		Goal Assists		Fouls Conceded		Tackles	
Sydney FC	14	Sydney FC	11	Adelaide United	130	Melbourne Victory	204
Perth Glory	12	Perth Glory	9	Queensland Roar	110	Queensland Roar	189
Melbourne Victory	10	Adelaide United	6	Sydney FC	108	Adelaide United	186
Adelaide United	8	Newcastle Jets	6	Newcastle Jets	106	Central Coast Mariners	182
Newcastle Jets	8	New Zealand Knights	5	Melbourne Victory	103	Perth Glory	171
Central Coast Mariners	8	Central Coast Mariners	5	Central Coast Mariners	99	New Zealand Knights	162
Queensland Roar	7	Melbourne Victory	5	New Zealand Knights	98	Sydney FC	149
New Zealand Knights	4	Queensland Roar	3	Perth Glory	93	Newcastle Jets	138

SLATER SAYS
WITH ROBBIE SLATER

GLORY DAYS

Australia's all-time leading goal scorer has made a welcome appearance in the Hyundai A-League.

There's an old saying in football that "goal scorers are born, not made". This is certainly the case with Perth Glory's Damian Mori. Australia's all-time leading goal scorer at international and domestic levels notched his 226th and 227th goals in top-flight Australian competition on the weekend, helping Perth Glory to a 5-1 demolition of a depleted Newcastle Jets side.

Having renewed the partnership with Perth Glory that was so successful from 2000 to 2004, Mori got his first opportunity to start a game last Saturday night when Steve McMahon took the decision to rest imported English star Brian Deane. Mori didn't disappoint. Not only did he score two great goals, he turned in a near-perfect striker's performance that was largely responsible for Perth's best win to date.

The biggest disappointment for Glory, head coach Steve McMahon and Mori is that his four-week loan deal from his player-manager duties with state league side Adelaide City ends after next week's clash with Central Coast. With David Tarka due back from injury, it will leave McMahon with a full quota and his hands tied over signing Mori for a longer period – something I imagine he is keen to do.

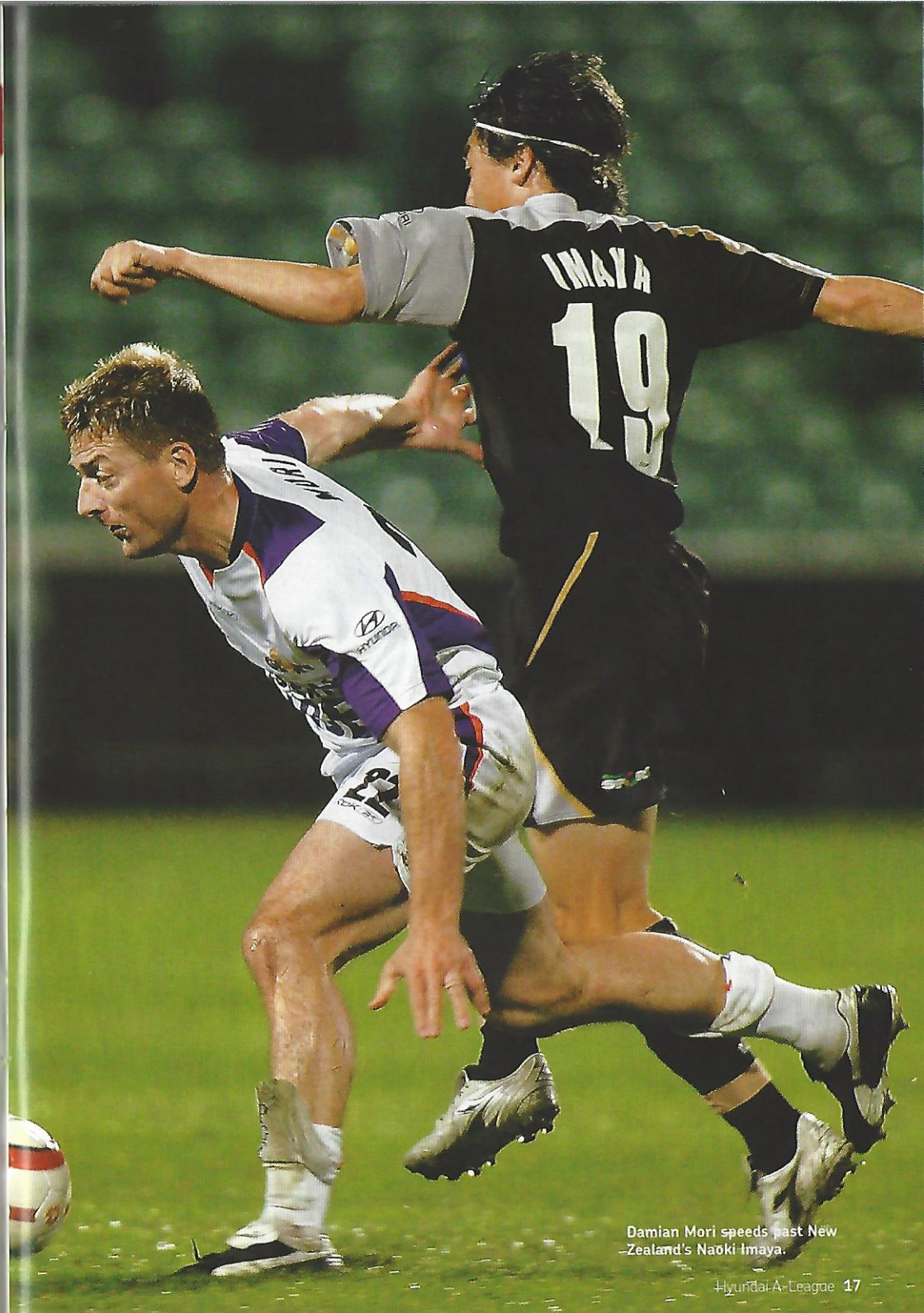
One person who looked glad to see Mori was Bobby Despotovski, who revelled in the revival of what was once the hottest playing partnership in the NSL. Despotovski shouldn't be forgotten; after seven rounds, he has banged in five goals and stands above the rest of the league in terms of goals scored. Alongside Scott Miller, Despotovski is the only other player still remaining from the inaugural Perth Glory campaign in 1996. He is a legendary player in Perth for good reason.

Anyway, back to Damian Mori. He has shown that his talent has not faded in the 18 months away from national league football, and scoring goals still comes as naturally as ever. There is no doubt Steve McMahon is assessing his options regarding Mori; he knows he would be a massive bonus for Perth if they could retain him for the rest of the season. As things stand, he will return to Adelaide City, much to the displeasure of his adoring Glory fans in Western Australia. The committed Mori has been commuting from South Australia since his loan commenced just three weeks ago.

Most importantly, one of Australia's greatest strikers has shown his talents in the new Hyundai A-League. Ideally, it would be for longer than just another week, but his future absence is unavoidable. We will see what happens with Mori in the future.

Enjoy the action and I will see you next week.

Robbie Slater is chief football analyst for Fox Sports and the Hyundai ambassador for football in Australia.



Damian Mori speeds past New Zealand's Naoki Imaya.

WORDS: David Lewis

OVER THE WALL

Football made growing up under communism bearable for Central Coast's Andrew Gumprecht. Now a self-described fan of Australia, he wants to make the game a priority for the country's youth.

> *"He's the one that gets forward more. He's very good on the ball, comfortable in tight situations and has good vision and passing skills."*
> – Noel Spencer

Finding a way through the Iron Curtain that once separated Eastern Europe from the West used to be an obsession for citizens of the former East Germany.

But the young Andre Gumprecht was happy in the thick of communist rule.

As a football-crazy kid growing up in the small town of Yena, 150km from the elegant cultural hub of Leipzig, the Central Coast midfielder enjoyed an idyllic existence of government-sponsored football saturation.

While many of his elders plotted an escape from the straitjacket of communism and the pervasive presence of the notorious Stasi secret police, a young Gumprecht belted balls about and dreamed of life as a full-time player.

Gumprecht holds the distinction of being the first East German player to move to a West German club when he left FC Yena, his hometown team, for Bundesliga (German premier legaue) thoroughbreds Bayer Leverkusen at the age of 15.

That was in 1990, the year the Berlin Wall – a stark symbol of communist oppression – came tumbling down.

Gumprecht, now 30, doesn't recall the grinding drabness of life under Big Brother's communist boot.

"For me as a child it was a sort of paradise," he says. "All I did was play football, and the government support was there to indulge that. Everything was focused on football. There were government grants and they even paid for me to go to a soccer skills school.

"My parents used to grumble about life under communism, but for me there wasn't a problem. It was the right spot for me."

Gumprecht's life changed forever when he switched to Bayer Leverkusen, who had peeked through the Iron Curtain to track his potential and liked what they saw.

That was just the beginning of the journey for the former German youth international. He is now a hyperactive lynchpin for the Mariners, whose attacking instincts act as the catalyst for many of the side's attacking forward thrusts.

Central Coast Skipper Noel Spencer is the more defensive half of a midfield double act he performs with Gumprecht.

"We have a great understanding," Spencer says. "He's the one that gets forward more. He's very good on the ball, comfortable in tight situations and has good vision and passing skills."

In Australia, his style has fitted in well. Two years here yielded two grand finals in the old national league, first a win with Perth Glory and then a loss with Parramatta Power.

But to understand how Gumprecht discovered a future in Australia, it's necessary to look back.

After two seasons honing his craft with Leverkusen, he found himself loaned out to Serie A newcomers Lecce in an adventure that saw him rack up 16 first-team games in two seasons. He matched wits with the likes of Dutch internationals Dennis Bergkamp and Aaron Winter at Inter Milan, Paul Gascoigne and Pepi Signori at Lazio, and compatriot Jurgen Koller at Juventus in what he describes as the "best league in the world".

"I was a no-name thrust onto the big stage and it was amazing for me," he remembers. "I had a three-year deal at Lecce as an 18-year-old. For me, it was quite an achievement."

Sadly for Gumprecht, Lecce's Serie A fairytale lasted only a season; with relegation came a new coach who didn't appreciate the good qualities that had brought him to Italy in the first place.

Disappointment eventually turned to frustration as Gumprecht found himself superfluous to the club's requirements in Serie B.

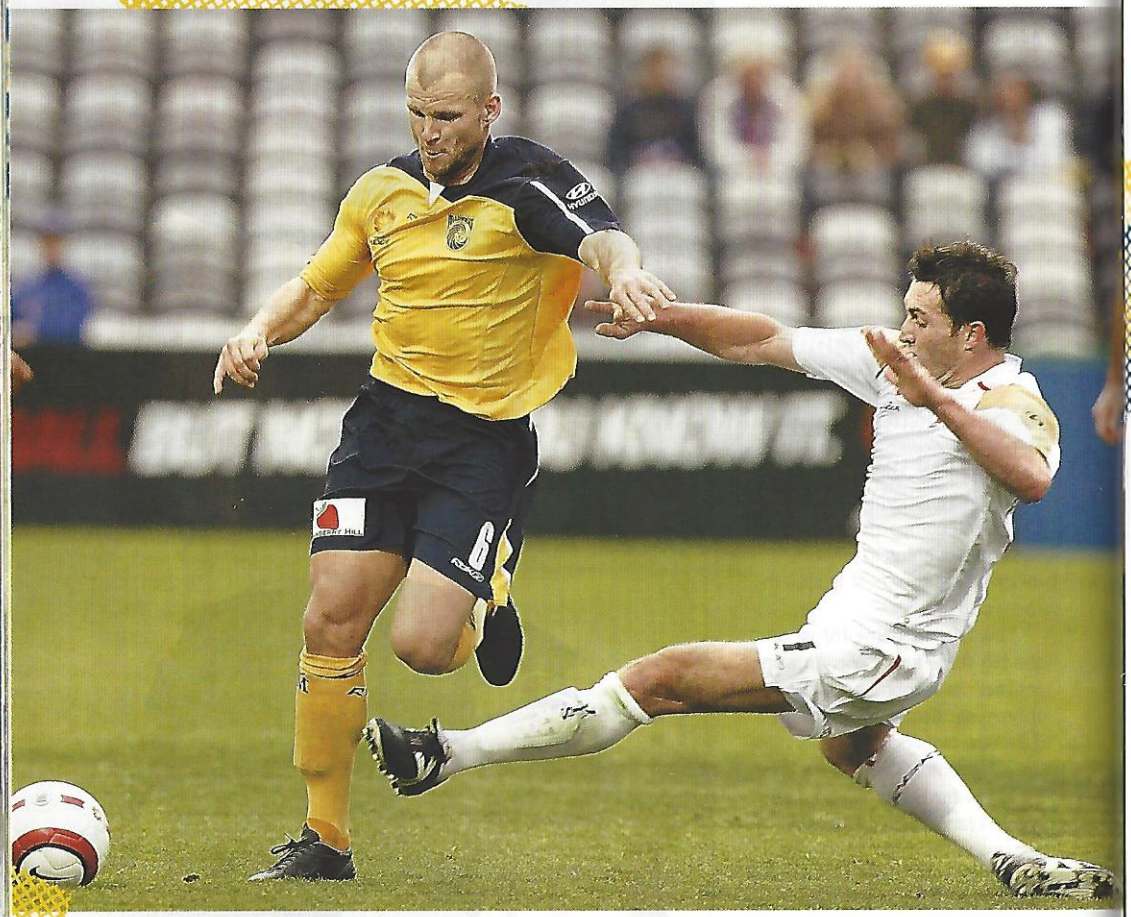
A return ticket to Germany beckoned when second-division team SG Wattenscheid came calling on his skills.

"I got disillusioned and probably still regret quitting Italy when I did," he adds.

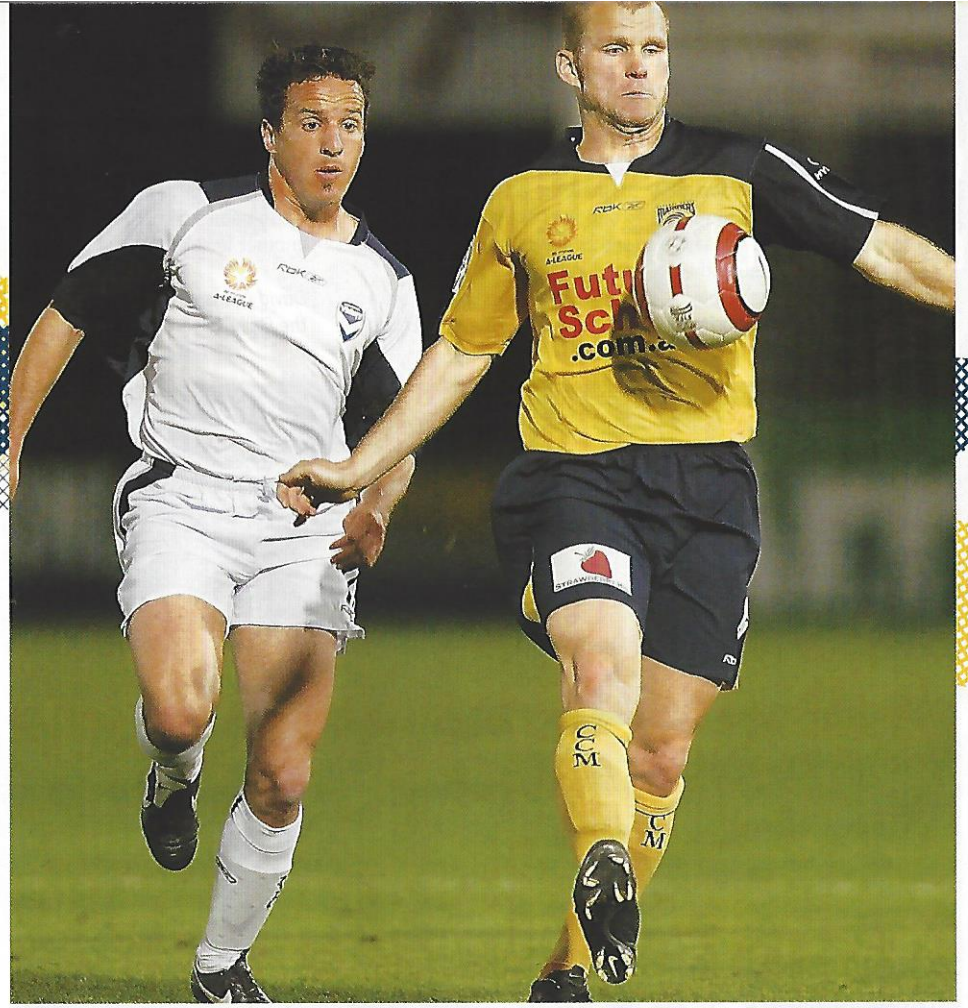
Gumprecht's other ports of call were fellow Teutonic minnows VFL Halle 1896 and FSV Zwickau.

His life lurched in a new

Gumprecht at work against Adelaide United.



Gumprecht squeezes past the Newcastle Jets' defence.



Gumprecht gets the jump on Victory's Richard Kitzbichler.

direction again when former Glory coach Bernd Stange, an admirer of his qualities, persuaded Gumprecht to pack up his talents and head for the southern hemisphere.

"I was going nowhere in Germany and wanted a change – a new challenge," he explains. "We won the title in my first season and I've never regretted coming here."

Gumprecht recently became an Australian permanent resident and has no intention of returning to his homeland any time soon.

"I'm privileged to be here, playing in a team that has surprised a few people," he insists. "We are a decent team with more technique than a lot of people give us credit for. There's a lot of potential in this club."

Gumprecht believes teammates Michael Beauchamp and Alex Wilkinson could both go on to play for Australia.

Beauchamp has already been involved in a Qantas Socceroos' camp under Guus Hiddink and is described by Gumprecht as so fast "it's frightening".

"I always try and play on his side at training because it's so frustrating playing against him. Even if you get by him, he hunts you down and sticks out one of his long legs to make the tackle. It's very annoying," he admits.

"Wilkinson is very calm on the ball, he's also quick and, like Beauchamp, he's very consistent. Sometimes young players have a great game, and then you don't notice them the next week. That's not the case with those two.

"They could be a big part of the future for Australian football at international level," he adds firmly. "And they will only get better."

When the tide of time washes over him, Gumprecht wants to help hone the next generation of Australian talent as a youth coach.

"I'd like to be a part of youth development down the track. I have coaching certificates and it's something that will keep me in the game."

Gumprecht's devotion to his German fatherland has been diluted and now he's getting behind Australia's World Cup qualification bid.

"Under Guus Hiddink they have the right man for sure," he says. "It's going to be very tough for them against the South Americans."

Gumprecht is set to play against his old club this weekend. Although coach Steve McMahon may have bruised a

few egos, Gumprecht insists they are not a spent force.

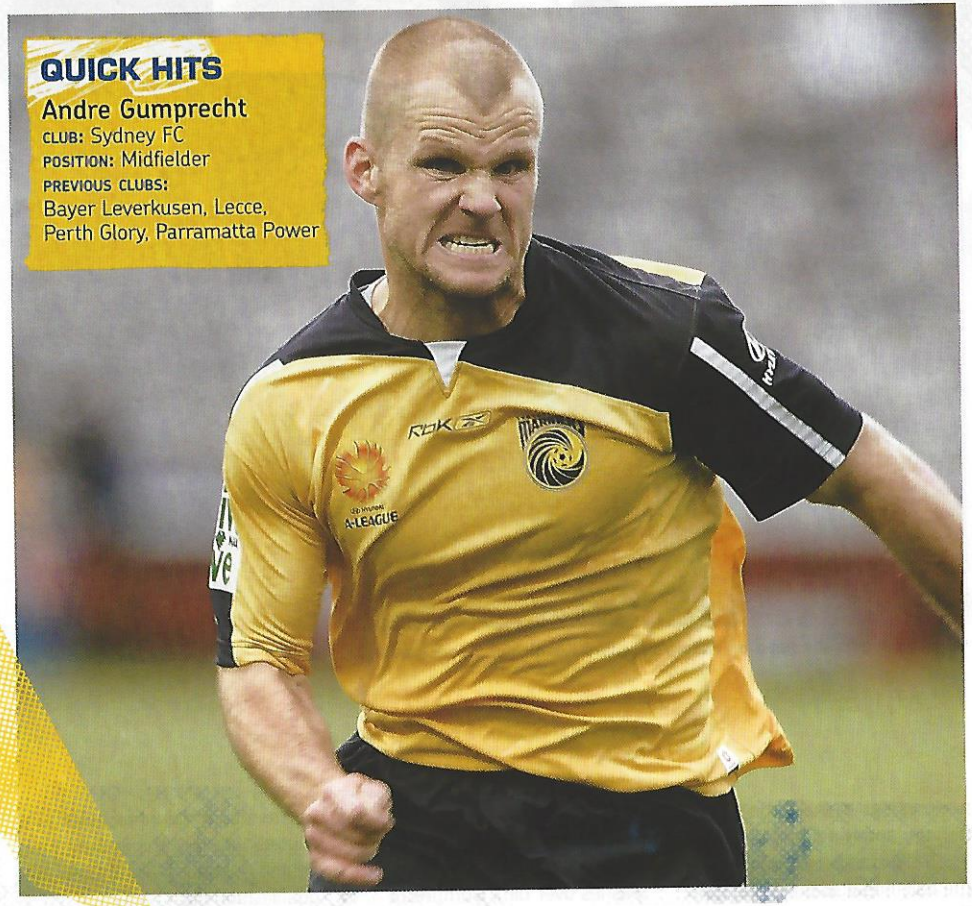
"They haven't had the sort of start they'd want, but it's too early to write Perth off," he says. "They will improve because they have quality players like Bobby Despotovski and Simon Colosimo."

Gumprecht believes the Hyundai A-League must be treated like a cherished child if it's to flourish in a harsh and highly competitive sporting marketplace.

"It's a like a baby that attracts a lot of well-wishers when it's born. They want to have a quick look and then they move on.

"We've got to make sure those people come back for a another look."

David Lewis covers football for the Daily Telegraph *in Sydney.*



QUICK HITS

Andre Gumprecht

CLUB: Sydney FC

POSITION: Midfielder

PREVIOUS CLUBS:

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THE BOY'S A BIT SPECIAL

ALEX BROSQUE

QUEENSLAND ROAR

AGE: 22 **POSITION:** Striker

WORDS: Aidan Ormond

"Alex Brosque has that X-factor that you can't coach or teach," says Queensland Roar's sweat-soaked skipper Chad Gibson after a typically energetic training session in Brisbane.

"Some of the things Alex does in training – it makes you wonder where he gets it from," he adds. "It's a natural ability, and he has an abundance of it."

The return of Brosque to Australia earlier this year from Europe has put a smile on the face of the Sunshine State and quite a few neutral football fans around the country.

He announced his return loud and clear with a left-foot missile that ignited 22,000 Roar converts at Suncorp Stadium during the 2-0 victory against New Zealand on the opening day of the Hyundai A-League.

Brosque dropped off wide as fellow striker Michael Baird roared forward and, as the ball broke just outside the box, his curling, first-time finish flashed into the net. It was pure gold from the orange shirts' hitman – and it signalled Brosque and Roar were not to be underestimated.

"It's good that we've actually been doing well and playing a good style of football," says Brosque. "No one gave us much of a chance for the season based on our pre-season results."

Brosque, originally from Sydney, has effortlessly blended into Queensland's set-up, thanks to his easy personality and the camaraderie of Suncorp's youthful cast of football showmen.

"Everything has been very professional in terms of the set up here," says the former Athens Olyroo player. "Most importantly, there's an excellent bond between the boys and you can see that with the way we play."

His captain agrees. "Alex fits in very well and is extremely popular with the rest of the players."

What's more, Brosque fits the image of the Hyundai A-League like a glove. He is a young Aussie (he celebrated his 22nd birthday on October 12), with the sort of skills that are a Hyundai A-League marketing dream.

But things would have been so different if his venture into Europe had worked out. In July, 2004, Brosque left struggling NSL club Marconi for Dutch powerhouse Feyenoord.

With the Hyundai A-League still some time off, it was worth a shot. The deal with the Dutch, however, stipulated that he was to be loaned out to Belgian side Westerlo in his first season.

"I have mixed feelings about my time in Belgium," explains Brosque. "Football-wise, it was pretty disappointing because I felt I could've done so much more.

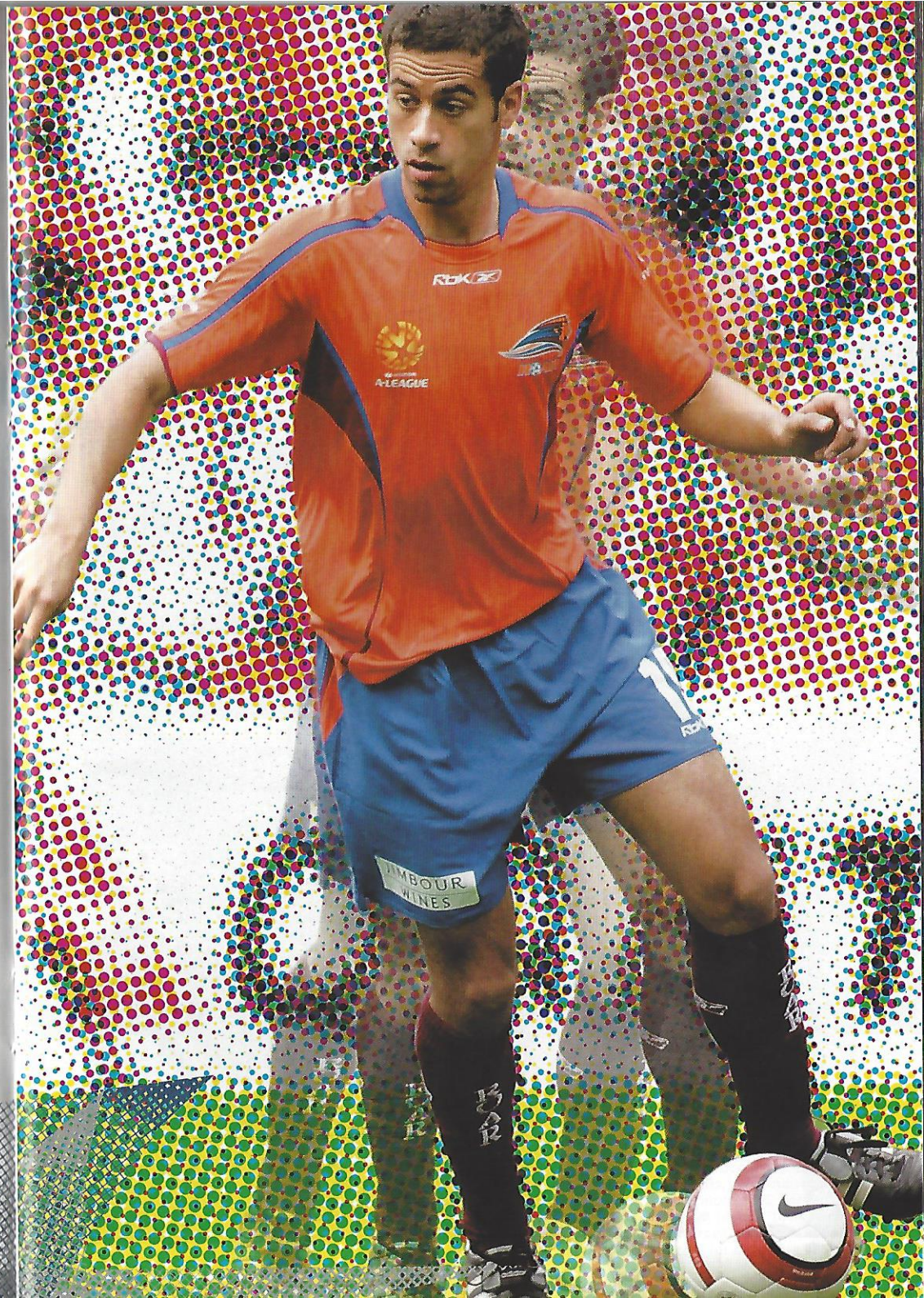
"The coach at Westerlo didn't really see me as a forward so he put me left of midfield and, because I never really got comfortable playing in that position, I don't think I ever performed to the best of my ability.

"It was frustrating at times and I had three ankle injuries in the season, pretty much one after the other," he recalls.

However, he has unfinished business on the European stage, so Hyundai A-League fans should enjoy the Brosque show while they can.

"I guess if the chance came up to play in Europe again, it would be a tough decision, because football in Australia now seems to be going in the right direction, but at the same time I wouldn't mind another shot at the European leagues."

The striker's recent fleeting visit to the Qantas Socceroos camp – replacing Harry Kewell – also showed he's on Guus Hiddink's radar.



"I only spoke to Guus once, but the four days there were great," says Brosque of his train-on experience in Sydney last August.

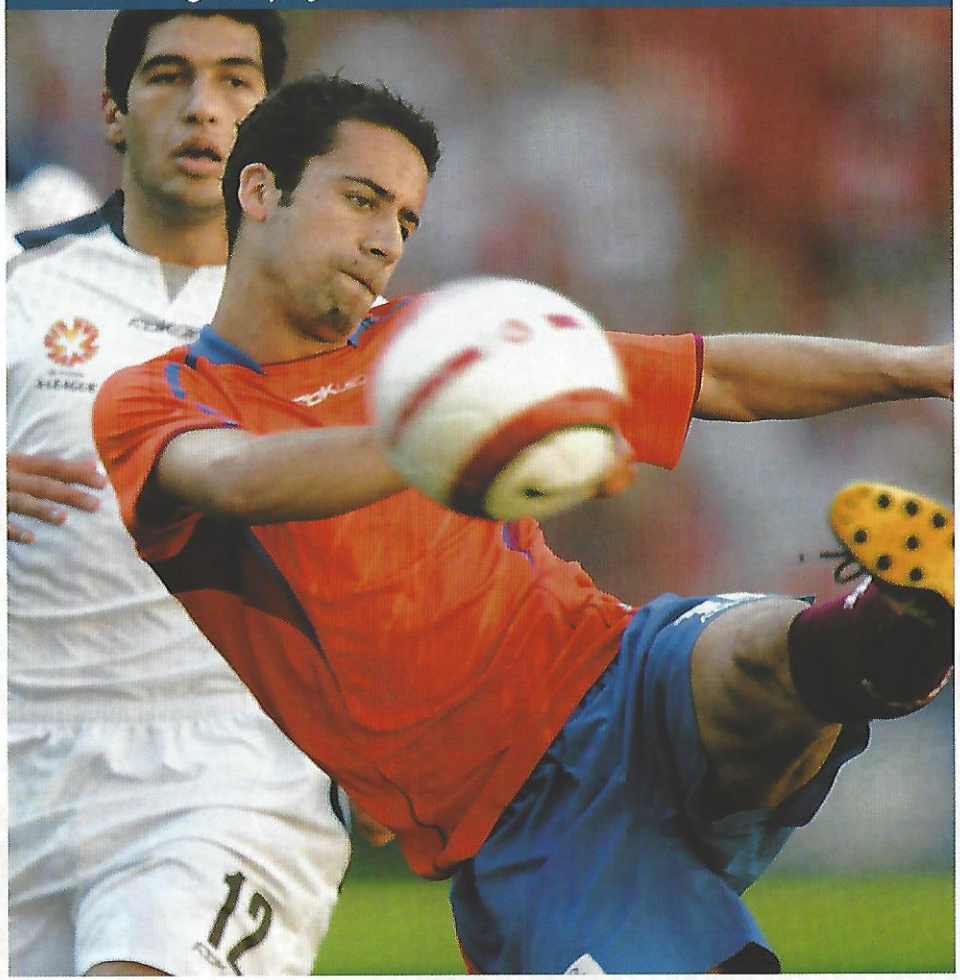
Flashy? Yes, but Brosque is no flash in the pan. In fact, talk to coaches and players around the country and many feel he'll be a regular in the Qantas Socceroos' 2010 World Cup campaign.

Former Qantas Socceroo Robbie Slater even describes Brosque as "possibly the best young talent in the country." He adds that Brosque being a left-footer with genuine pace is a huge asset.

While Roar coach Miron Bleiberg sees great potential in his striker, he tempers the hype with a dose of reality. And he has some good advice.

"If Alex can learn to use his right foot more and increase his goal ratio, there is no reason why he can't be a regular player for the national team," says the master motivator. "He has to make those improvements to go to the next level. His quality has given Roar an extra edge, but I still don't feel we have seen the best of Alex yet. When we do, it will be worth waiting for."

"If Alex can use his right foot more and increase his goal ratio, there is no reason why he can't be a regular player for the national team" - Miron Bleiberg



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MELBOURNE VICTORY

Player Profiles

MICHAEL THEOKLITOS 1

GOALKEEPER

Born 11-2-81 Games 2
Height 186cm Goals 0
Weight 93kg

Former South Melbourne keeper who also a season with Blackpool in England. Won the Victorian championship with Bulleen, saving four penalties in the Grand Final.

KEVIN MUSCAT 2

DEFENDER

Born 7-8-73 Games 7
Height 180cm Goals 2
Weight 76kg

Victory's inaugural captain, Muscat needs little introduction as the Socceroos' legendary hardman. Played overseas in England and Scotland for a decade.

DANIEL PIORKOWSKI 3

DEFENDER

Born 28-4-81 Games 1
Height 187cm Goals 0
Weight 81kg

Elegant centre-half or right-back whose progress has been stymied by injury. Missed a whole season after injuring a knee in the under-20 World Cup in 2003.

MARK BYRNES 4

DEFENDER

Born 8-2-82 Games 2
Height 184cm Goals 0
Weight 81kg

Won an NSL championship with Perth and played in Italy, Austria and, more recently, Finland. Will be out for several weeks after sustaining a groin strain.

GEOFFREY CLAEYS 5

DEFENDER

Born 5-10-74 Games 7
Height 185cm Goals 0
Weight 80kg

Belgian international who played in World Cup qualifiers. Has also been with top Dutch team Feyenoord in the Champions League. Good in the air and calm on the ball.

STEVE PANTELIDIS 6

DEFENDER/MIDFIELDER

Born 17-8-83 Games 7
Height 182cm Goals 0
Weight 83kg

Started out as a centre-back or full-back, but been turned into a defensive midfielder to give the team more bite in the centre of the park.

MICHAEL FERRANTE 7

MIDFIELDER

Born 28-4-81 Games 7
Height 172cm Goals 0
Weight 73kg

Ferrante is the face of the Victory in the league's TV ads. He was a teammate of England internationals Joe Cole and Michael Carrick in the West Ham youth team.

ANDY VLAHOS 8

MIDFIELDER

Born 20-4-76 Games 7
Height 171cm Goals 0
Weight 73kg

Like teammates Claeys and Thompson, Vlahos came to Melbourne from Belgium. He was playing at the top level with Cercle Brugge.

DANIEL ALLSOPP 9

STRIKER

Born 10-8-78 Games 6
Height 184cm Goals 1
Weight 88kg

Another returning to his homeland, Allsopp spent several years in England. Started out with Manchester City, then moved around, scoring freely for Hull City and Notts Country.

ARCHIE THOMPSON 10

STRIKER

Born 23-10-78 Games 5
Height 174cm Goals 3
Weight 70kg

The star striker on whom so many of Victory's hopes are pinned. Super fast with a great change of direction, Thompson has become a regular face in Socceroo squads.

VINCE LIA 11

MIDFIELDER

Born 18-5-85 Games 5
Height 177cm Goals 0
Weight 73kg

Versatile – has played as a wing-back, striker and central-midfielder. Made his NSL debut as a 16-year-old, and captained Australia at the under-20 World Cup.

CARL RECCHIA 12

DEFENDER/MIDFIELDER

Born 13-12-84 Games 4
Height 178cm Goals 0
Weight 80kg

A versatile youngster debuted with South Melbourne in the old NSL. A utility player who can operate as either full-back, centre-back or as a holding midfielder.

KRISTIAN SARKIES 13

MIDFIELDER

Born 25-10-86 Games 7
Height 177cm Goals 0
Weight 78kg

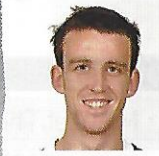
Many judges rate Sarkies as one of the brightest young prospects in the Australian game. Hard-working midfielder with good touch and plenty of creativity.

ADRIAN LEIJER 15

DEFENDER

Born 25-3-86 Games 7
Height 186cm Goals 1
Weight 80kg

One of several players in this squad who played together at under-17 and under-20 international level. A tall defender who can play either in the middle or on the left.



SIMON STOREY 16

DEFENDER

Born 5-6-82 Games 4
Height 179cm Goals 0
Weight 70kg

Made his NSL debut with South Melbourne after scooping under-21 state player-of-the-year honours with Green Gully. Loves to get forward.

RICHARD KITZBICHLER 17

MIDFIELDER

Born 12-1-70 Games 6
Height 172cm Goals 2
Weight 74kg

Highly-experienced Austrian campaigner who has played for many of the leading clubs in his native country as well as collecting 17 caps for the national team.

CHRIS TADROSSE 18

MIDFIELDER/DEFENDER

Born 10-9-85 Games 4
Height 172cm Goals 0
Weight 85kg

Went to the most recent under-20 World Cup with the Young Socceroos. A quick, left-sided player who has operated as both a winger and a defender.

RICKY DIACO 19

STRIKER

Born 6-6-82 Games 5
Height 183cm Goals 1
Weight 87kg

Gets his shot at the big league later than many, but has shown in limited pre-season opportunities that he relishes the chance. Last year's State League player of the year.

EUGENE GALEKOVIC 20

GOALKEEPER

Born 12-6-81 Games 3
Height 186cm Goals 0
Weight 91kg

Australia's first-choice keeper at the Athens Olympics, former South Melbourne custodian Galekovic has just returned from a year in Portugal.

MELBOURNE VICTORY

Homeground:
Olympic Park, Melbourne

Coach:
Ernie Merrick

Captain:
Kevin Muscat

No.	Name	Position	Goals
1.	Michael Theoklitos	Goalkeeper	
2.	Kevin Muscat	Defender	
3.	Daniel Piorkowski	Defender	
4.	Mark Byrnes	Defender	
5.	Geoffrey Claeys	Defender	
6.	Steve Pantelidis	Defender/Midfielder	
7.	Michael Ferrante	Midfielder	
8.	Andy Vlahos	Midfielder	
9.	Daniel Allsopp	Striker	
10.	Archie Thompson	Striker	
11.	Vince Lia	Midfielder	
12.	Carl Recchia	Defender/Midfielder	
13.	Kristian Sarkies	Midfielder	
15.	Adrian Leijer	Defender	
16.	Simon Storey	Defender	
17.	Richard Kitzbichler	Midfielder	
18.	Chris Tadrosse	Midfielder/Defender	
19.	Ricky Diaco	Striker	
20.	Eugene Galekovic	Goalkeeper	

TEAM SCORE

Half-time

Full-time

SYDNEY FC

No.	Name	Position	Goals
1.	Clint Bolton	Goalkeeper	
2.	Iain Fyfe	Defender	
3.	Alvin Ceccoli	Defender	
4.	Mark Rudan	Defender	
6.	Ufuk Talay	Midfielder	
7.	Robbie Middleby	Midfielder	
8.	Matthew Bingley	Midfielder	
9.	David Zdrilic	Striker	
10.	Steve Corica	Midfielder	
11.	Sasho Petrovski	Striker	
12.	David Carney	Midfielder	
13.	Alejandro Salazar	Striker	
14.	Andrew Packer	Midfielder	
15.	Terry McFlynn	Midfielder	
16.	Mark Milligan	Defender	
17.	Jacob Timpano	Defender	
18.	Wade Oostendorp	Defender	
19.	Dwight Yorke	Striker	
20.	Justin Pasfield	Goalkeeper	
21.	John Buonavoglia	Striker	

Homeground:
Aussie Stadium, Sydney

Coach:
Pierre Littbarski

Captain:
Mark Rudan

TEAM SCORE

Half-time

Full-time

SYDNEY FC
Player Profiles

CLINT BOLTON 1
GOALKEEPER

Born 22-8-75 **Games** 7
Height 188cm **Goals** 0
Weight 95kg

One of, if not the, top keepers in the Hyundai A-League, Bolton has been at the top level of the domestic game for years. Won an NSL title and is a full international.

IAIN FYFE 2
DEFENDER

Born 3-4-82 **Games** 7
Height 185cm **Goals** 0
Weight 83kg

Fyfe is one of Sydney's key defenders, and has packed a lot of experience into his 23 years. Part of the Joey's run to the 1999 under-17 World Cup final.

ALVIN CECCOLI 3
DEFENDER

Born 5-8-74 **Games** 7
Height 178cm **Goals** 0
Weight 79kg

An experienced defender who will bring stability to Sydney's rearguard. A full international, he skippered Parramatta to the NSL Grand Final and won a title with Wollongong.

MARK RUDAN 4
DEFENDER

Born 27-8-75 **Games** 4
Height 191cm **Goals** 1
Weight 90kg

Sydney's first captain, the tall and physically imposing Rudan is a commanding presence at the back. He has extensive overseas experience.

UFUK TALAY 6
MIDFIELDER

Born 26-3-76 **Games** 7
Height 178cm **Goals** 0
Weight 76kg

Described by Socceroo Josip Skoko as "the best Australian to have never played for the national team". Won an NSL title before his 18th birthday. Spent nine seasons in Turkey.

ROBBIE MIDDLEBY 7
MIDFIELDER

Born 9-8-75 **Games** 6
Height 173cm **Goals** 1
Weight 74kg

Fast, direct-running wide-midfielder. Can play on either the right or left, and can also be used as a forward. Joined Sydney from Newcastle.

MATTHEW BINGLEY 8
MIDFIELDER

Born 16-8-71 **Games** 7
Height 183cm **Goals** 1
Weight 82kg

Peripatetic former Socceroo who played over 300 NSL games including the last-ever Grand Final with Perth. Can play in midfield, as a full-back or centre-back.

DAVID ZDRILIC 9
STRIKER

Born 13-4-74 **Games** 7
Height 183cm **Goals** 0
Weight 85kg

Regular member of Socceroo squads in recent years, the hard-working Zdrilic has a wealth of experience. Will be hoping to be part of Australia's World Cup crusade.

STEVE CORICA 10
MIDFIELDER

Born 24-3-73 **Games** 6
Height 174cm **Goals** 2
Weight 71kg

Returned home from England, where he playing for Birmingham-area club Wallsall. Also spent time in Japan and at other English clubs Wolves and Leicester.

SASHO PETROVSKI 11
STRIKER

Born 5-3-75 **Games** 6
Height 181cm **Goals** 2
Weight 80kg

Surprise inclusion in Guus Hiddink's first Socceroo training camp, Petrovski has earned an enviable record as a consistent goalscorer at the top level.

DAVID CARNEY 12
MIDFIELDER

Born 30-11-83 **Games** 7
Height 181cm **Goals** 1
Weight 78kg

Spent several years in the junior system at Everton (where he was a teammate of Wayne Rooney) before moving on to Oldham and then Hamilton in Scotland.

ALEJANDRO SALAZAR 13
STRIKER

Born 18-2-84 **Games** 0
Height 182cm **Goals** 0
Weight 77kg

An American, son of the great marathon runner Alberto. Recruited from the US college system. Can play up-front or as an attacking midfielder.

ANDREW PACKER 14
MIDFIELDER

Born 16-6-80 **Games** 7
Height 180cm **Goals** 1
Weight 78kg

Hard-running midfielder who can play on either flank or as a full-back. Packer was an under-17 international. Won NSL championships with Sydney Olympic and Perth.

TERRY McFLYNN 15
MIDFIELDER

Born 27-3-81 **Games** 7
Height 174cm **Goals** 1
Weight 76kg

Box-to-box midfielder who represented Northern Ireland as a youth international. Arrived via Queens Park Rangers, for whom he made a handful of first-team starts.

MARK MILLIGAN 16
DEFENDER

Born 4-8-85 **Games** 0
Height 178cm **Goals** 0
Weight 78kg

Played in two under-20 World Cups (in 2003 and 2005), the right-back made his NSL debut for Northern Spirit. Can also play in the midfield.

JACOB TIMPANO 17
DEFENDER

Born 3-1-86 **Games** 6
Height 189cm **Goals** 0
Weight 86kg

One of several central-defenders in the Sydney squad, Timpano is a big, strong youngster who captained his country at youth level.

WADE OOSTENDORP 18
DEFENDER

Born 20-4-88 **Games** 0
Height 183cm **Goals** 0
Weight 76kg

The baby of the entire competition, Oostendorp is very much a project player at the moment. Has played for the under-17 national team.

DWIGHT YORKE 19
STRIKER

Born 3-3-71 **Games** 5
Height 179cm **Goals** 4
Weight 79kg

The league's biggest signing. A Champions League winner with Manchester United, Yorke has been a prolific scorer wherever he has played.

JUSTIN PASFIELD 20
GOALKEEPER

Born 30-5-85 **Games** 0
Height 189cm **Goals** 0
Weight 78kg

Backup for Bolton. Like Timpano and Milligan, was part of the Australian under-20 side at the last Youth World Cup. Played in Ireland as well as for Wollongong in the NSL.

JOHN BUONAVOGLIA 21
STRIKER

Born 19-10-73 **Games** 0
Height 165cm **Goals** 0
Weight 63kg

A livewire striker drafted into the Sydney FC squad when strikers Dwight Yorke and Sasho Petrovski were on international duty.

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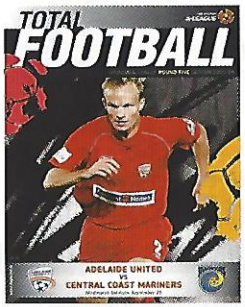

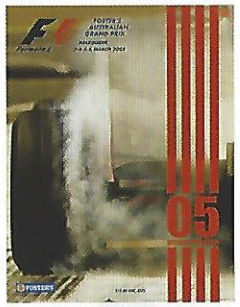

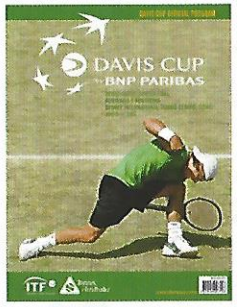

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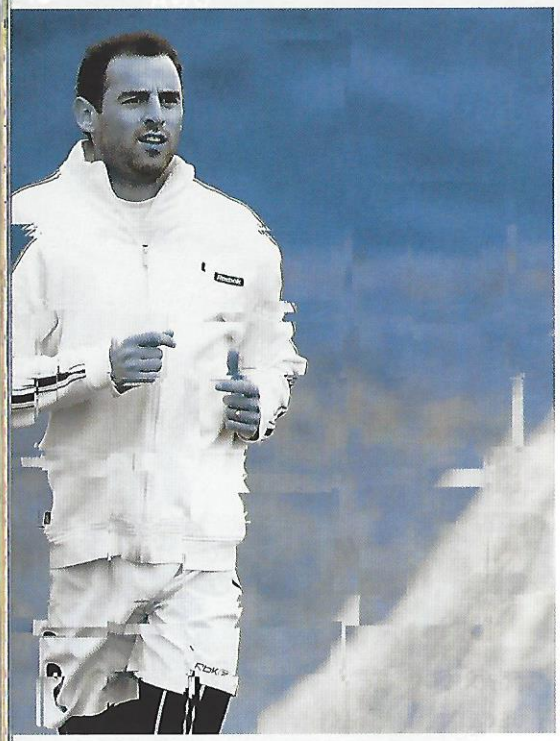
HAIL TO THE CHIEF

Melbourne Victory defender Kevin Muscat is captaining his team to a solid first season with good football and strong leadership.

Kevin Muscat turned his back on the remaining year of his contract with Millwall in England's League Championship to accept an offer to come back to Australia and captain Melbourne Victory in the inaugural season of the Hyundai A-League.

He has taken a pay cut, but there was more to it than money. The Qantas Socceroo defender was keen to resettle his family at home and establish his two young kids in Australian schools.

But after nine years of full-time professional football, it was a leap of faith to commit to a new league and a new club. Now that he's found his feet with Melbourne Victory and seen all the teams, Muscat gives his impressions after three months back home.



Total Football: You played in the UK for nearly 10 years. How does the Hyundai A-League compare in standard?
Kevin Muscat: It's so difficult to compare a league that is so newly formed. At this point in time it's unrealistic to try to make hard decisions on the standard. What I do believe is that the A-League clubs have a responsibility to help the league. There has been so much work put in to create the product, there is an obligation on the clubs to help progress the product by trying to play good football.

By and large all clubs started with the right intentions but we live in a results-driven business and it will be interesting to see what will start developing as the season unfolds.

You've played all the teams in the league now. What are your thoughts on the opposition? Is a pattern forming in your mind?
Have a look at the table and you'll see there are not many points separating the main body of teams in the league. I'm convinced it's going to be like that all the way through to the end of the season. The teams are so evenly balanced, everyone is capable of beating anyone else. It's just what happens on the day.

Is there a team that has caught your eye?
Different teams take up different styles and different approaches. I think Queensland Roar is the team that best resembles Melbourne Victory. They're a very young attacking side that is prepared to take chances. I think they'll do very well this season.

The pre-season hype suggested that Sydney were the overwhelming favourites. What do you make of them?
They're one of the teams that is going to be in the pack.

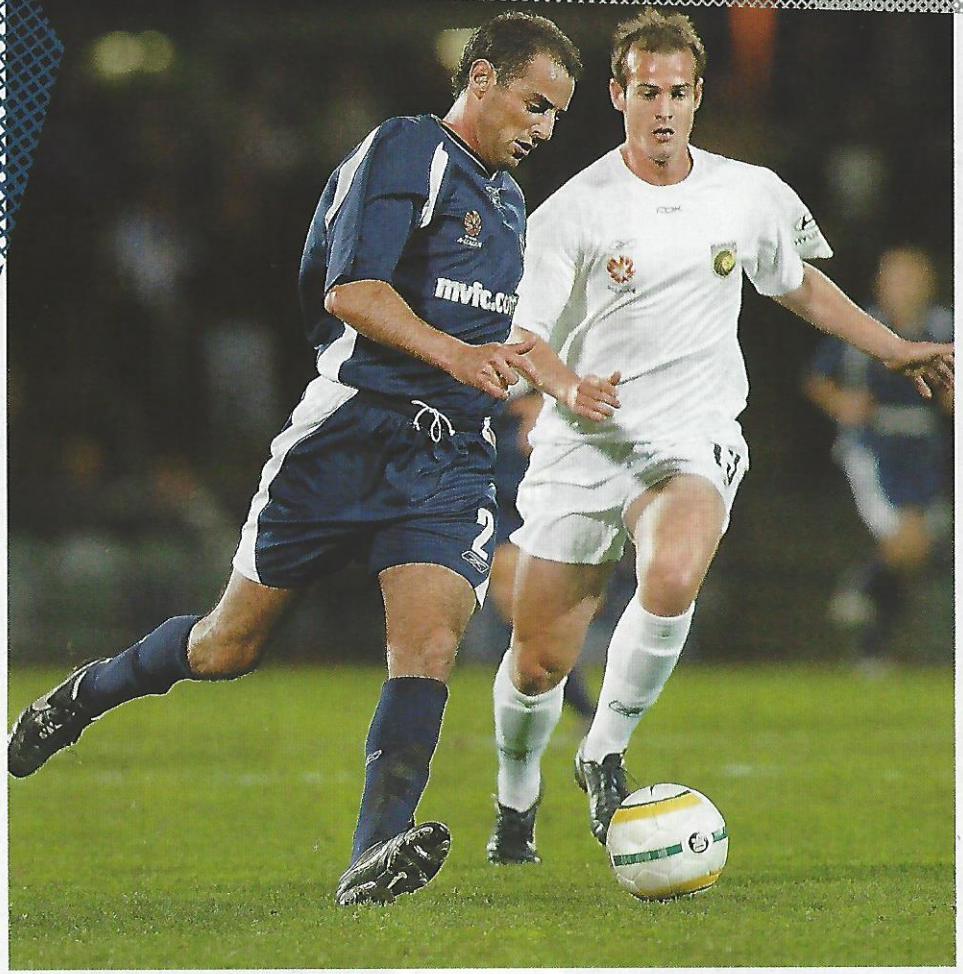
Is Adelaide in a false position at the top?
They've got the runs on the board. They've been very competitive, they've got their own style. They approach games a little bit different to us, but to each their own. Credit for what they've done so far.

You've had three months with Victory players. What are your thoughts on the strength of the squad?
We're the first team to use everyone in the squad. That's the way (coach) Ernie Merrick has approached it – you get a chance, if you do well, you keep your spot. You have to credit some of the boys who have come in and done well. Adrian Leijer is a perfect example. He got his opportunity because of an injury to Mark Byrnes and he's been outstanding. He's been brilliant for us. He has really stood up; I've been impressed with him.

Ernie Merrick has said you've pulled some Victory players aside and given them advice. Have you become a father figure to the squad?
No, it was more of a one-off where I geed up Adrian Leijer a little bit. It's like anyone, if you've got something to say, it's better to bring it out in the open. It wasn't something we made a big deal of. We got together as a team and talked about being consistent.

At the start of the season, the press were talking about pressure on us because we didn't get our first win until the fifth round. But we were only under the pressure we put on ourselves – we wanted to keep playing the way we have been and felt very confident it would sort itself out.

QUICK HITS
Kevin Muscat
CLUB: Melbourne Victory
POSITION: Defender
PREVIOUS CLUBS:
South Melbourne
Crystal Palace
Wolverhampton
Glasgow Rangers
Millwall



Muscat takes it past Central Coast's Russell Woodruffe.

Victory is a team that goes into a huddle before a kick-off. Is that something you've introduced?
We don't do it all the time. It's a last-minute thing, just to remind them of a few things. From week to week, different people stand up and say something – it's not pre-planned, it's what happens on the day.

Your thoughts on Victory's home crowd?
The positive was the games we've played at home have been of high quality. The signs have been that the fans who were there were knowledgeable football fans who really got behind us. At times they've sensed we've needed a bit of a push and, when the goals have come, the noise coming out of the stands was brilliant.

You've been the target of sledging from away supporters at times. Does that affect your form? Are you hurt occasionally by some of the taunts?
Not at all. One thing about me is I wear my heart on my sleeve – I want to win so much. Ultimately, if that means I have to take a bit of stick here and there, I'm not going to loses much sleep over it.

Will you turn to coaching once you finish playing?
I haven't thought about it too much. I still think I've got a couple of good years left in me. I'll start worrying about it later on. I'm just enjoying playing. I've not thought about coaching at this stage.

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WORDS: Stuart Sykes

CONTINENTAL DRIFTERS

If you thought nomads were disappearing, check out the global movements of players in the Hyundai A-League.

Planning a European trip some time in the not too distant future? If so, forget your travel agent, Ned Zelic is your go-to man.

Newcastle's Zelic has a playing career that reads like the ideal itinerary for a tour of Europe: England, Germany, France, a quick side trip to the Mediterranean, a touch of the East with a stopover in Japan and eventually back to Australia. But as strong as Zelic's familial ties are here, Australia is unlikely to be the 34-year-old's final destination.

"This was never a case of me coming back home," the Hyundai A-League's most famous wanderer says.

"Coming to Newcastle was purely a sporting decision – I felt it was the right step to take. I was never 'going home to wind my career down', no matter what people may have thought. I don't know what I'm going to be doing, I haven't decided where to settle: this is purely a two-year thing and I'm not looking beyond that."

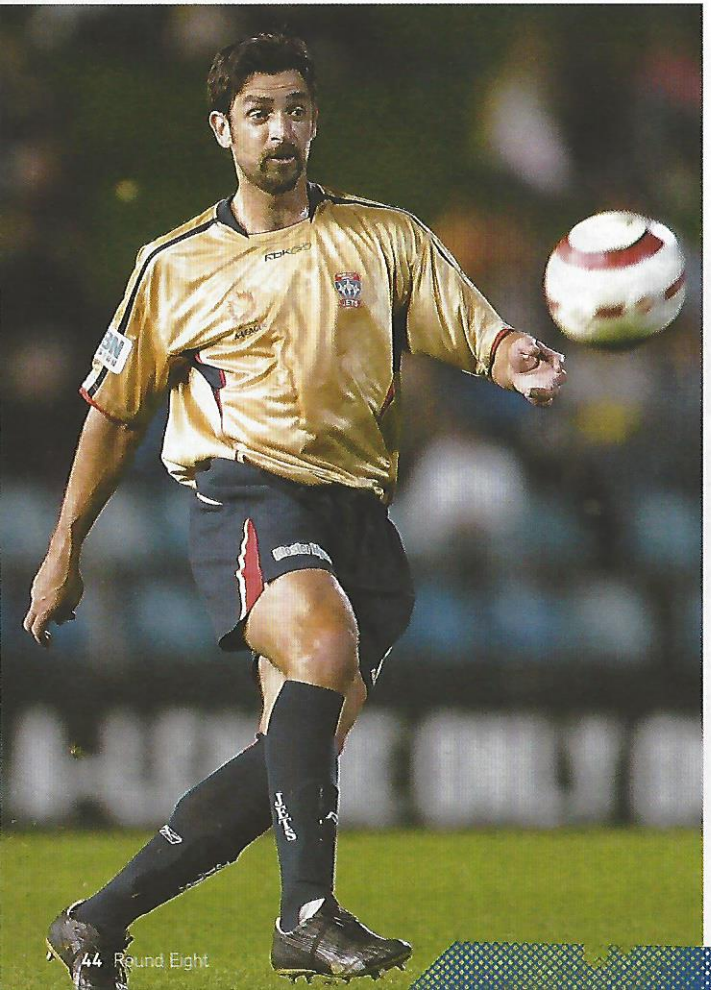
These are the words of a classic nomad. A nomad, the *Oxford Shorter Dictionary* tells us, is "a member of a people who move from place to place to find pasture" and, by modern extension, "a person who leads a roaming or wandering life". It may not be the reason why so many clubs are called "Wanderers", but the definition fits the modern footballer perfectly, and none better than Zelic.

From Sydney, Zelic headed off to fulfil his talent and his dreams away from home in 1992. He went to Borussia Dortmund, Frankfurt and Munich in Germany, QPR in London, Auxerre in France, on to Japan for two stints separated by a three-day side trip to Cyprus (he didn't sign), a last call in to Austria and then home to the wide brown land.

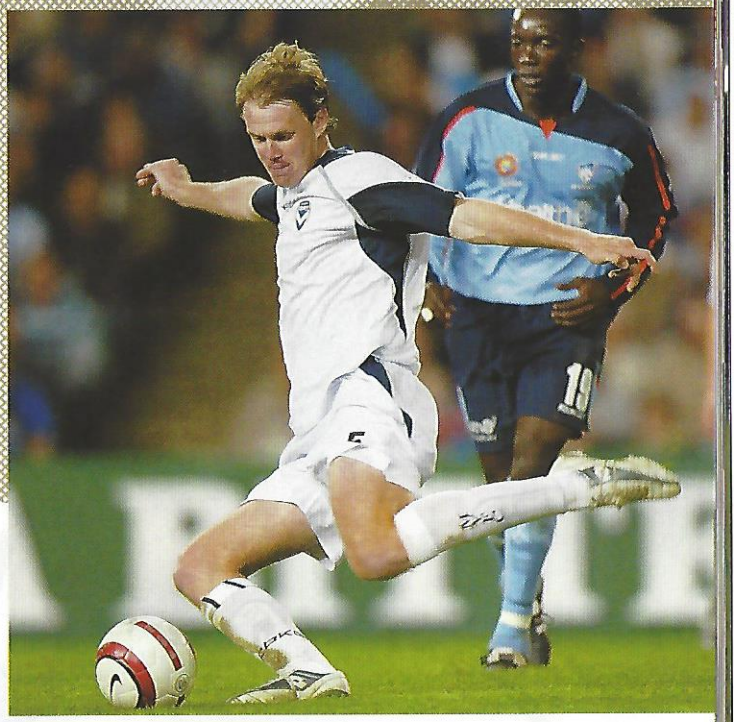
"For me, the most difficult thing – and this applies not only to sportsmen but to people in general – is coping with change," says a reflective Zelic. "No sooner have you settled in somewhere than you have to change and start that settling-in process all over again. But I like a new adventure and a new challenge. So, for me personally, it was never that much of a difficulty."

Football's global village sees players switch at the drop of a hat or a cheque from South America to Sunderland, from Australia to Auxerre, from Scotland to Sydney: what's the trick to it?

"That's the thing," says Zelic. "There is no real trick to it. I feel it doesn't matter where you are: if things are functioning on the field, it makes everything else a lot easier. It was always a question of doing what I was there for: to play good football. Performances at the weekend would dictate the mood I was in. If they were going well, then off the field things just fell into place."



Left and previous page: Ned Zelic of the Jets says Australia may not be his final football destination.



Belgian Geoffrey Claeys has settled into Melbourne with the Victory.

One of the keys, of course, is language. Speak a few words, however haltingly, to a person in their own native tongue and they are likely to embrace you like a long-lost friend.

"When I went to Germany," Zelic recalls, "it was an advantage that everyone there seemed to speak good English. But wherever I was, from day one, I started trying to pick up languages as quickly as possible. People give you a period of time to learn, and respond to you if you try."

Language has clearly helped Melbourne Victory defender Geoffrey Claeys settle quickly into his new surroundings. Happily ensconced in Port Melbourne, the Belgian speaks superb, very colloquial English, with minimal traces of a Belgian accent.

"I've been here four months now," he says, "and I'm starting to have the feeling that this is my second home. Of course, Belgium will always be 'home' for me, but now, when we've been to away games and come back, I really look at Melbourne as coming home."

> *"The best thing about Australia is the kindness of the people ... that's something money can't buy."*
> *– Geoffrey Claeys*

Like most of his fellow Belgians, Claeys learned English at school. "When you're interested in languages," he points out, "it's already half the battle." See what we meant about the colloquial English? He was helped on his way by "hanging out" (his expression, too) with Australians in Belgium before he arrived, but the other key to his happy migration has been the people around him.

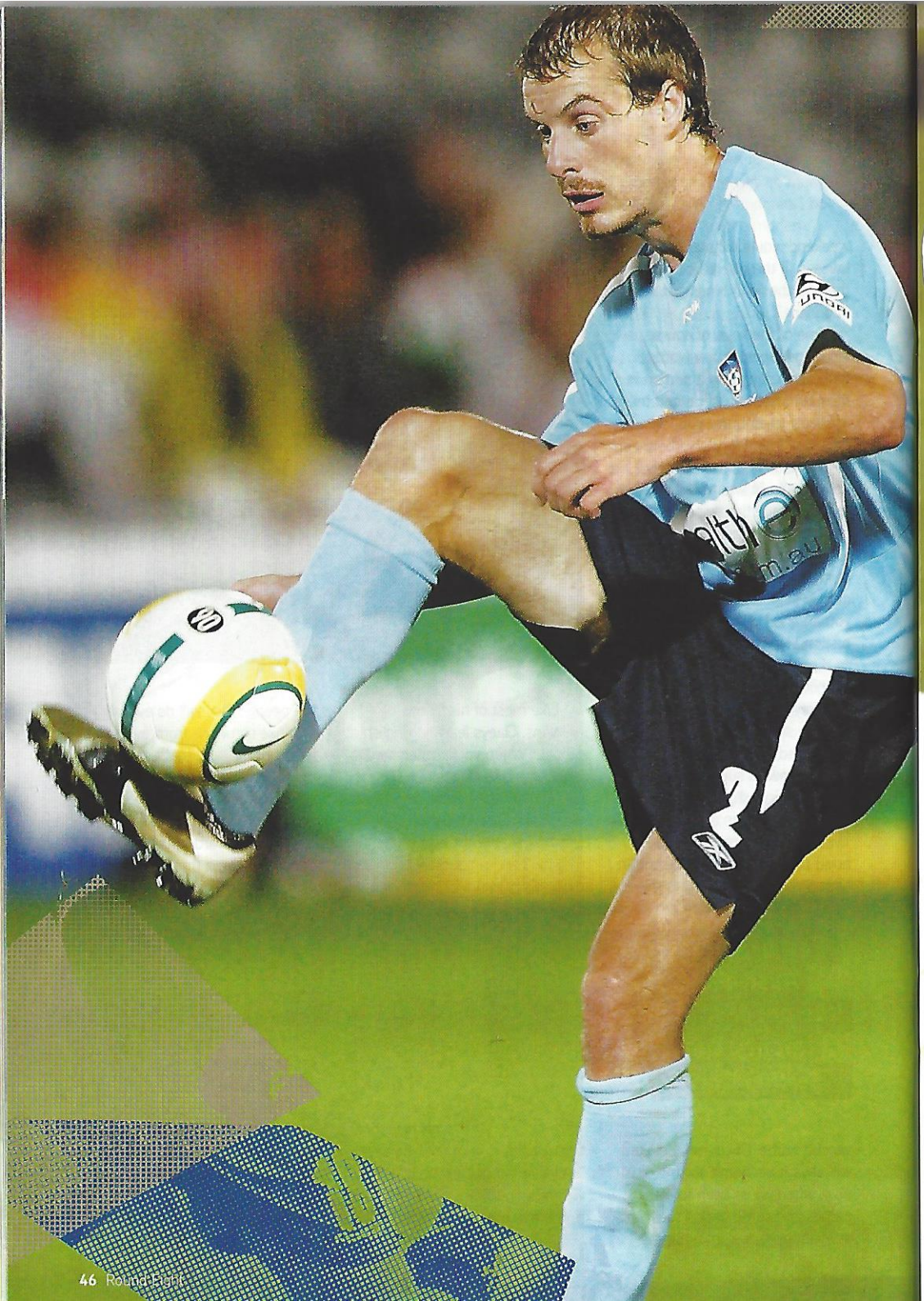
"The staff and all the boys have been taking good care of me," he says, "and giving me a feeling of warmth, and that's something that matters to me. The best thing about Australia is the kindness of the people: they will do everything to make someone from overseas feel at home, and that's something money can't buy."

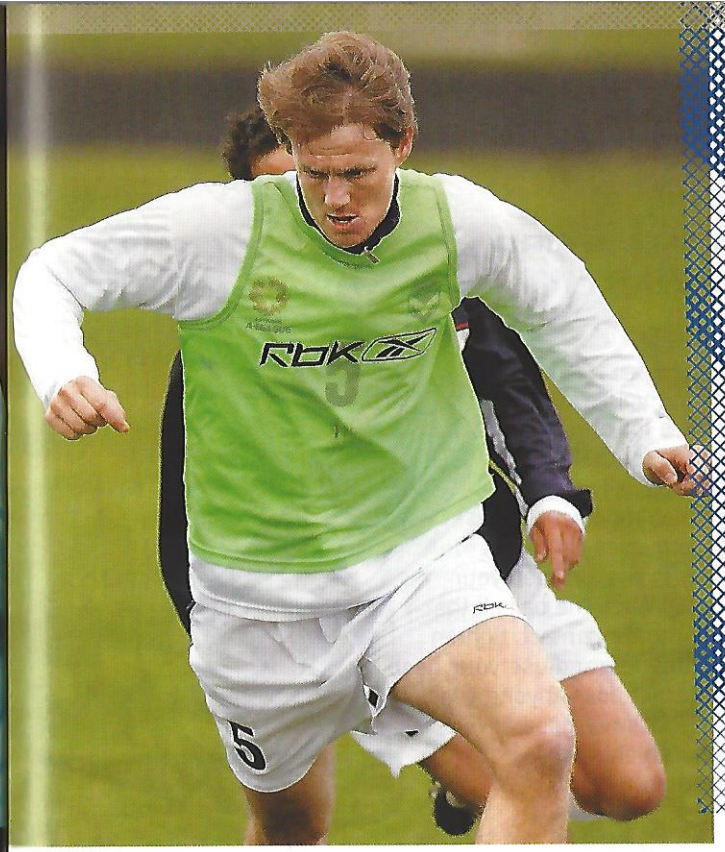
So is the absence of Belgian cooking in Melbourne why Claeys is looking forward to the arrival of his parents on a three-week trip to Australia?

"The first thing Mum's going to do is cook me a Belgian meal!" he chuckles. And if you've ever sampled the best of Belgian you'll know it's a match for anything the French can do.

Home cooking played a big part in the adventures of another nomad, Sydney defender Iain Fyfe. Fyfe wasn't far past 20 years of age when he set sail for bonnie Scotland. It turned ugly pretty fast.

A promising trial with Hibs in Edinburgh fell apart when their manager left for Plymouth, and Fyfe was left high and dry.





Left: Sydney's Iain Fyfe was happy to return from Scotland.
Above: Geoffrey Claeys finding his feet in Melbourne.

So, here's a question for you: what or where is New Douglas Park? It's the home of Hamilton Academicals, just south of Glasgow in the heart of Scotland.

The chance to play for the Academicals came up and Fyfe simply took the plunge. He was just doing what many Australian players do and just looking for a club where he could make a wage.

Fresh fields? Not quite.

"It is a strange stadium," he says with a smile. "It only has stands on two sides and they're at right angles to each other, and when I was there it was an artificial pitch. It was a bad move for me to be there, but at least I got to play."

Luckily, Fyfe's parents are Scottish and his grandmother still lives in nearby Motherwell.

"I'd be over there every week and she'd make me a nice, home-cooked meal," says Fyfe with the first hint of enthusiasm about Scotland in his voice. "I actually loved the time in Scotland, the football apart. It's great how the Hyundai A-League has taken off, but I would like to play overseas again – just not in the Scottish First Division."

Fyfe was kind enough not to say it to a Scottish interviewer, but he probably had problems with the language as well, which brings us back to Zelic and Claeys.

"Of course I would encourage young Aussies to go overseas," says Geoffrey Claeys. "But not too early: they have to improve and become mature enough to take care of themselves. They should start in Belgium or Holland: they're good places to be before heading for the really big leagues, because mentally that's very tough."

Ned Zelic agrees. "My advice to kids? Wait long enough to put yourself in a position where you've got a chance of playing. Not getting a game is what makes kids come home in frustration."

WORDS: Brian Curtis

FOOTBALL SKILLS
WITH MICHAEL BAIRD

This week's skill:
> HEADING

Has anybody ever told you to "use your head"? It's good advice, because **a lot of goals get scored from headers in football.** Heading the ball can be scary, especially when the ball is travelling fast. The most important thing to remember is to **keep your eyes on the ball.** As the ball comes your way in the air, keep your feet about shoulder-width apart. Watch the ball all the way to your forehead. When you make contact, tighten your stomach, neck and chest muscles, and **use your head to direct the ball towards the target.** Has anyone ever told you to "bite your tongue"? That's not good advice – so remember to keep your mouth shut while heading the ball!

MICHAEL SAYS:

"Heading can be an accurate tool, but you have to use the right part of your head. Don't use your nose, ears, or the top of your head. Use the middle of your forehead and I guarantee it won't hurt."

What in the weird?

Dynamo Moscow in 1945.

One cold day back in 1945 at London's famous White Hart Lane stadium, Arsenal were playing against Dynamo Moscow (they really did – look it up!) when a dense fog descended on the pitch. Because the visiting team had travelled all the way from Russia, the head referee didn't want to abandon the match. As the fog grew thicker, the game was eventually reduced to a farce. One Arsenal player was sent off for fighting, but was able to sneak back on again in the fog. The Russians substituted one of their players, but never sent the first player off. As the game went on, the pitch became so foggy that some spectators began to suspect the Russian side secretly grew from 11 players to 15! The problem was that the referees couldn't actually see well enough to count the players. The most confusion occurred near the end of the match, when the Arsenal goalkeeper became disoriented in the fog and knocked himself out on the goal post. He was replaced by a member of the crowd, but that wasn't enough to prevent Dyanmo Moscow from winning 4-3.

DID YOU KNOW?

With ***Damian Mori*** (above) coming on board with Perth Glory and ***Fernando Rech*** joining Adelaide United, the Hyundai A-League now has several players who have won the Australian Player of the Year award. Rech won the award in 2001-02, Mori took it out in 2002-03 (and 1995-96) and Jets striker ***Ante Milicic*** took the honour in 2003-04. In addition to these three talents, there are also a few under-21 Australian Players of the Year. Victory's ***Kevin Muscat*** won it in 1991-92, Sydney FC's ***Steve Corica*** got the gong in 1992-93 and Queensland Roar's ***Alex Brosque*** won it two years in a row in 2002-03 and 2003-04.

JUMBLED PLAYERS

Some of the Hyundai A-League's players have had their names rearranged. Can you unjumble them? Answers are below the jumbled names.

1. Opposition forwards try to stay away from **ARISE STINKER**, who plays in central defense for Adelaide.
2. You might find **SIDECAR SHORTS** at left midfield in Melbourne.
3. If you listen closely, you can hear **ELM SONGS** coming from the Knights' goal.
4. Don't eat **RUSTY NOUGAT** while playing striker for the Glory.

Answers: 1. Kristian Rees 2. Chris Taarrose 3. Glen Moss 4. Stuart Young

H A-Z OF FOOTBALL

Join us as we work our way through the football alphabet.

Guus Hiddink

Former professional footballer from Holland, Hiddink is best known Down Under as head coach of the Qantas Socceroos. In addition to coaching the Australian team in their bid for the World Cup in 2006, he is coach for Dutch side PSV Eindhoven. His first name is pronounced hoose (it rhymes with "moose").

Hand of God

Argentinean striker Diego Maradona's dubious goal against England in the 1986 World Cup in which he hit the ball in with his left hand while attempting to head it.

Hotspur

North London football club with a loyal following, Tottenham Hotspur is thought to be named after Sir Henry Percy, an English warrior who was nicknamed "Harry Hotspur".

Mia Hamm

Mia Hamm

Widely considered the best women's football player in history, Hamm retired from international competition after 17 years as a member of the US women's soccer team. In that time she won two FIFA World Cups and two Olympic gold medals. She also holds the record for scoring the most international goals – at 158, she has more than any other player, male or female.

FIXTURE

ROUND	FIXTURE	VENUE	KICK-OFF
ROUND 1			
Fri 26 Aug 05	Newcastle Jets FC 0 **Adelaide United FC 1**	EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle	8.00 pm
Fri 26 Aug 05	Perth Glory FC 0 **Central Coast Mariners FC 1**	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	8.00 pm
Sun 28 Aug 05	**Queensland Roar FC 2** New Zealand Knights FC 0	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	3.00 pm
Sun 28 Aug 05	Sydney FC 1 Melbourne Victory FC 1	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	5.00 pm
ROUND 2			
Fri 2 Sep 05	New Zealand Knights FC 1 **Sydney FC 3**	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Fri 2 Sep 05	Adelaide United FC 0 Queensland Roar FC 0	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30 pm
Sun 4 Sep 05	Central Coast Mariners FC 1 Newcastle Jets FC 1	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	3.00 pm
Sun 4 Sep 05	Melbourne Victory FC 2 Perth Glory FC 2	Olympic Park, Melbourne	5.00 pm
ROUND 3			
Fri 9 Sep 05	**Adelaide United FC 1** Melbourne Victory FC 0	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30 pm
Sat 10 Sep 05	Central Coast Mariners FC 0 **New Zealand Knights FC 2**	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	7.35 pm
Sat 10 Sep 05	**Perth Glory FC 2** Queensland Roar FC 1	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.35 pm
Sun 11 Sep 05	**Newcastle Jets FC 2** Sydney FC 1	EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle	5.00 pm
ROUND 4			
Fri 16 Sep 05	Sydney FC 2 **Central Coast Mariners FC 3**	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sat 17 Sep 05	Perth Glory FC 1 **Adelaide United FC 2**	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.35 pm
Sun 18 Sep 05	Queensland Roar FC 1 Melbourne Victory FC 1	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	3.00 pm
Sun 18 Sep 05	**Newcastle Jets FC 4** New Zealand Knights FC 0	EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle	5.00 pm
ROUND 5			
Thu 22 Sep 05	New Zealand Knights FC 0 **Perth Glory FC 1**	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Fri 23 Sep 05	Queensland Roar FC 1 **Sydney FC 3**	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	8.00 pm
Sun 25 Sep 05	Adelaide United FC 1 Central Coast Mariners FC 1	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	6.30 pm
Sun 25 Sep 05	**Melbourne Victory FC 1** Newcastle Jets FC 0	Olympic Park, Melbourne	5.00 pm
ROUND 6			
Fri 30 Sep 05	Central Coast Mariners FC 1 **Melbourne Victory FC 2**	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	8.00 pm
Sat 1 Oct 05	Newcastle Jets FC 0 **Queensland Roar FC 1**	EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle	7.35 pm
Sat 1 Oct 05	Perth Glory FC 1 **Sydney FC 2**	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.35 pm
Sun 2 Oct 05	New Zealand Knights FC 1 **Adelaide United FC 2**	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	6.00 pm
ROUND 7			
Fri 7 Oct 05	Queensland Roar FC 1 Central Coast Mariners 1	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	8.00 pm
Sat 8 Oct 05	Newcastle Jets FC 1 **Perth Glory FC 5**	EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle	7.35 pm
Sun 9 Oct 05	**Sydney FC 2** Adelaide United 1	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	5.00 pm
Mon 10 Oct 05	**Melbourne Victory FC 3** New Zealand Knights FC 0	Olympic Park, Melbourne	7.00 pm
ROUND 8			
Fri 14 Oct 05	Adelaide United FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30 pm
Sun 16 Oct 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Sydney FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	1.00 pm
Sun 16 Oct 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Queensland Roar FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	6.00 pm
Sun 16 Oct 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Perth Glory FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	5.00 pm
ROUND 9			
Fri 21 Oct 05	Sydney FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sat 22 Oct 05	Queensland Roar FC vs Adelaide United FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.30 pm
Sun 23 Oct 05	Newcastle Jets FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle	5.00 pm
Sun 23 Oct 05	Perth Glory FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	5.00 pm
ROUND 10			
Fri 28 Oct 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Adelaide United FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	8.00 pm
Sat 29 Oct 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Sat 29 Oct 05	Queensland Roar FC vs Perth Glory FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.30 pm
Sun 30 Oct 05	Sydney FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	5.00 pm
ROUND 11			
Fri 4 Nov 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Fri 4 Nov 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	8.00 pm
Sat 5 Nov 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Sydney FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	8.00 pm
Sun 6 Nov 05	Adelaide United FC vs Perth Glory FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	4.30 pm
ROUND 12			
Fri 11 Nov 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	8.00 pm
Fri 11 Nov 05	Perth Glory FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.00 pm
Sun 13 Nov 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Adelaide United FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	3.00 pm
Sun 13 Nov 05	Sydney FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	5.00 pm

ROUND	FIXTURE	VENUE	KICK-OFF
ROUND 13			
Fri 18 Nov 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	8.00 pm
Sat 19 Nov 05	Sydney FC vs Perth Glory FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sun 20 Nov 05	Adelaide United FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	4.30 pm
Sun 20 Nov 05	Queensland Roar FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	6.00 pm
ROUND 14			
Fri 25 Nov 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	8.00 pm
Fri 25 Nov 05	Perth Glory FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.00 pm
Sat 26 Nov 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Sun 27 Nov 05	Adelaide United FC vs Sydney FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	4.30 pm
ROUND 15			
Thu 1 Dec 05	Queensland Roar FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.00 pm
Fri 2 Dec 05	Newcastle Jets FC vs Adelaide United FC	EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle	8.00 pm
Sat 3 Dec 05	Sydney FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sun 4 Dec 05	Perth Glory FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	5.00 pm
WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS - WEEK ENDING 11 DECEMBER 2005			
WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS - WEEK ENDING 18 DECEMBER 2005			
WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS - WEEK ENDING 25 DECEMBER 2005			
ROUND 16			
Thu 29 Dec 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Perth Glory FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	8.00 pm
Fri 30 Dec 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Sydney FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Sat 31 Dec 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	6.00 pm
Sun 1 Jan 06	Adelaide United FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	6.30 pm
ROUND 17			
Thu 5 Jan 06	Adelaide United FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30 pm
Fri 6 Jan 06	Sydney FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sat 7 Jan 06	Perth Glory FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.00 pm
Sun 8 Jan 06	Central Coast Mariners FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	5.00 pm
ROUND 18			
Thu 12 Jan 06	Perth Glory FC vs Adelaide United FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.00 pm
Fri 13 Jan 06	Newcastle Jets FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle	8.00 pm
Sat 14 Jan 06	Sydney FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sun 15 Jan 06	Queensland Roar FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	6.00 pm
ROUND 19			
Thu 19 Jan 06	New Zealand Knights FC vs Perth Glory FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Fri 20 Jan 06	Adelaide United FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30 pm
Sat 21 Jan 06	Queensland Roar FC vs Sydney FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.00 pm
Sun 22 Jan 06	Newcastle Jets FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle	5.00 pm
ROUND 20			
Thu 26 Jan 06	Newcastle Jets FC vs Queensland Roar FC	EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle	8.00 pm
Fri 27 Jan 06	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	8.00 pm
Sat 28 Jan 06	New Zealand Knights FC vs Adelaide United FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Sun 29 Jan 06	Perth Glory FC vs Sydney FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	5.00 pm
ROUND 21			
Fri 3 Feb 06	Sydney FC vs Adelaide United FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sat 4 Feb 06	Melbourne Victory FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	6.00 pm
Sat 4 Feb 06	Queensland Roar FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.00 pm
Sun 5 Feb 06	Newcastle Jets FC vs Perth Glory FC	EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle	5.00 pm
FINALS			
WEEK 1	**SEMI-FINAL 1ST LEG (1 v 2, 3 v 4)**		
Fri 10 Feb 06			
Sun 12 Feb 06			
WEEK 2	**SEMI-FINAL 2ND LEG (1 v 2, 3 v 4)**		
Fri 17 Feb 06			
Sun 19 Feb 06			
WEEK 3	**PRELIMINARY FINAL (LOSER 1 v 2) v (WINNER 3 v 4)**		
Sat 25 Feb 06			
WEEK 4	**GRAND FINAL (WINNER 1 v 2) v (WINNER PRELIMINARY)**		
Sat 4 Mar 06			

All times local and subject to change

CLUBNEWS

A club-by-club guide to what's happening off the field in the Hyundai A-League.

Melbourne Victory

Melbourne Victory, Nova 100, Bridie O'Reilly's and Elephant & Wheel Barrow have teamed together to bring fans of Melbourne Victory some extra luck after their home games. Victory fans over the age of 18 can head to a Bridie O'Reilly's or Elephant and Wheelbarrow pub after Victory home games and get a free half-pint, wine or sparkling in exchange for their Melbourne Victory ticket.

This offer is available on Sunday October 16 (against Sydney FC), Friday November 18 (against Central Coast Mariners), Thursday December 29 (against Perth Glory) and Saturday February 4 (against New Zealand Knights), and is valid at Bridie O'Reilly's (462 Chapel St, South Yarra) or Elephant and Wheel Barrow (96 Bourke St, Melbourne or 169 Fitzroy St, St Kilda). Enjoy a drink on the club. Turn to page 11 of *Total Football* for full terms and conditions.

Queensland Roar

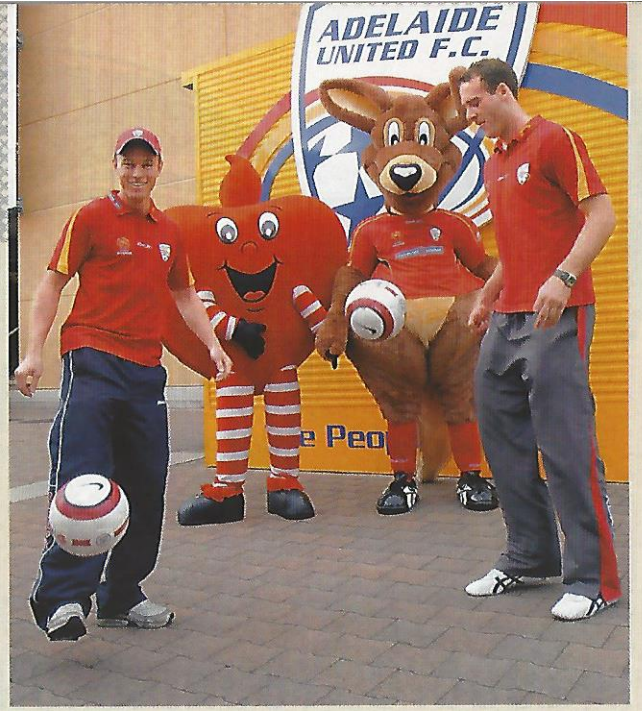
Roar players Remo Buess, Massimo Murdocca and Matt McKay were present at the auction of the season's first tray of mangoes at Brisbane Markets last Friday, and also presented sporting memorabilia to the gathered crowd.

McKay and leading Brisbane FM radio station, B105FM, auctioned off the Queensland Roar celebrity cake, with funds going to Cannon Hill State School. The Celebrity Cake Auction, an initiative of B105, takes place every year.

Tae-Yong Shin, who recently announced his retirement as a Roar player due to an ankle injury, has now joined the coaching staff at Roar, specialising in skills coaching. His experience in the game and expertise in dead-ball situations will certainly be influential in the development of all players at Roar.

Roar goalkeeping coach Fernando Alves has returned from a very successful camp with the Australian under-20s squad, and says the team looks strong all over. The Roar certainly has a multicultural and multi-talented coaching staff.

Roar captain Chad Gibson (left) with Steve Renouf, Ian Healy and Ian Skippen at the Breakfast Creek Hotel.



Adelaide United mascot Big Red and the Heart Foundation's Happy Heart with United players Matt Kemp and Kristian Rees.

Adelaide United

Adelaide United was delighted to be part of the McGuiness/McDermott Foundation Slowdown at the Adelaide Oval on the long weekend on October 3. Five Adelaide players (Tony Hatzis, Robert Cornthwaite, Michael Matricciani, Adam van Dommele and Kevin Nelson) conducted skills sessions on the oval with hundreds of enthusiastic kids. The Adelaide Oval was close to capacity for the event, which raises funds for foundations that supports children with cancer.

Adelaide United mascot Big Red also made an appearance and was part of the football mascot race. He scored a credible second to last – not bad considering they wouldn't let him hop during the race.

This week, Qantas invited football-keen kids to meet the stars of the Adelaide United Football Club at the Qantas Junior Football Clinic held at Hindmarsh Stadium. The kids tried out their skills with the stars from the Reds in a 90-minute football clinic. They got to experience the thrill of running out onto Hindmarsh Stadium, learned new skills from their football heroes, plus received a Qantas backpack to take home and two tickets to an Adelaide United game.

Newcastle Jets

The Jets are a big hit in Newcastle. Their popularity is such that some ardent fans drove back from Nelson Bay to see their beloved Jets play on Saturday night against Queensland Roar, then returned back to the holiday destination immediately after the game.

Earlier this year the Jets introduced the Shoot for Goal competition as part of the half-time entertainment. Four participants are selected at each home game and take part in a three-kick, golf-like competition from one end of the pitch to the other to try and get the ball through the target. Entrants have the chance to win a return airfare with the Jets plus

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A-LEAGUE

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Above: Newcastle's Allan Picken looks over a soccer clinic at Northlakes Oval.
Below: Roxy Jacenko and Sydney FC's Dwight Yorke attend the La Senza lingerie launch.

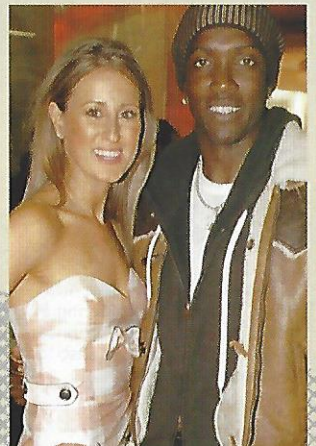
accommodation. All of the winning participants will go into a finals competition at the end of the season for a chance to win a return trip to the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany. The first winner of the competition was Brodie Wells.

PERTH GLORY

Perth Glory

Due to essential maintenance work on the Members Equity Stadium pitch, the Peters Glory Squad launch and open training session of the season has been postponed until November 9. The event, originally scheduled for last week, will take place between 4.30pm and 6.20pm. Everyone who attends will be able to watch the Glory train and collect players' autographs after the session.

At the end of this month, the Glory Shed supporters club will make their annual pilgrimage away from home with the fifth "Tour Of Duty". The Tour was initiated four years ago when a fanatical bunch of Glory supporters decided they should endeavour to reach at least one away game per year. This year



120 fans will travel from Perth to Brisbane for the clash against Queensland Roar at Suncorp Stadium. Four Glory players have featured in the five previous tours: Jason Petkovic, Jamie Harnwell, Scott Miller and Bobby Despotovski.

SYDNEY FC

Sydney FC

Sydney FC is thrilled that Fox Sports has obtained the rights to cover the FIFA Club World Championships (CWC) in Japan from December 11 to 18. Sydney FC plays Costa Rican side Deportivo Saprissa in the first round and all Australian football fans can watch the action exclusively on Fox Sports. Sydney FC's pelada program is

also gathering momentum, with the club taking junior football exhibitions on Aussie Stadium before matches to the next level. Pelada is a Portuguese term, which highlights the beautiful game. It also promotes the fact that it is far better to keep the ball than kick the ball.

Before each home game, Sydney FC's stars visit the junior clubs participating in the pre-match activity at their home ground and put on clinics promoting "possession" football for the kids who will play at Aussie Stadium. Sydney FC will welcome junior teams from the Sutherland and St George Associations for the next home game on October 21.

New Zealand Knights

On October 6, the Knights announced that they regretfully accepted the resignation of CEO Guy Hedderwick and introduced his replacement Steve O'Hara. In the two years since his arrival, Hedderwick has successfully overseen the start up of the new entity into the new competition, overcoming many obstacles on the way before securing the licence to play in the Hyundai A-League as the sole New Zealand franchise. Hedderwick has decided that the time is right for new challenges.

The Knights announced the incoming CEO at a press conference, introducing Steve O'Hara to the role.

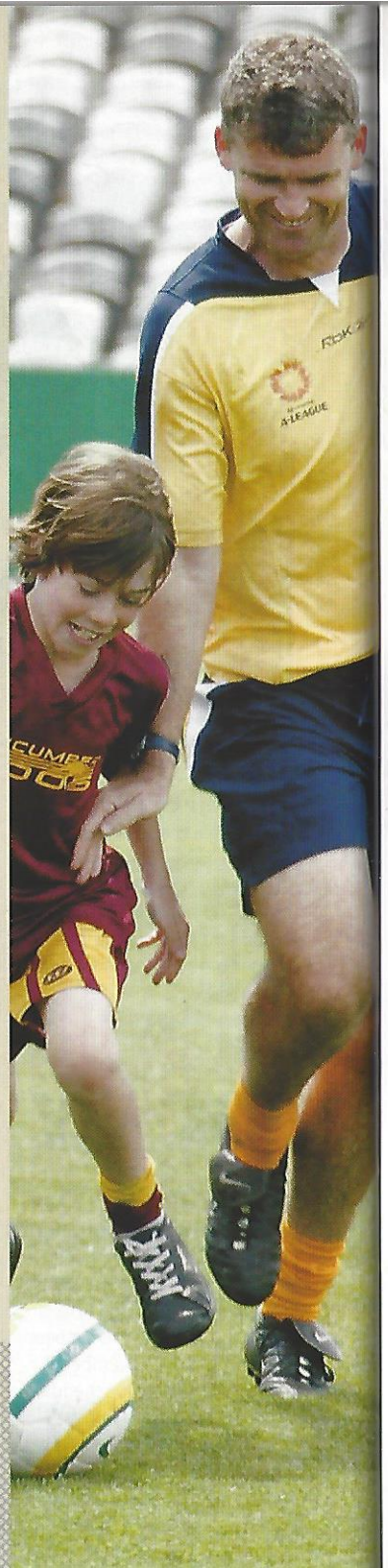
O'Hara is a successful New Zealand businessman who has worked to great effect in the past with Chairman Anthony Lee. It was their partnership in the creation of the Student Support Centre in the UK that eventually led to the largest private provider of education in the UK with a multi-million dollar turnover. O'Hara has not only taken on the role of CEO but has taken a 10 per cent shareholding in the club, investing his money along with his drive and business acumen.

Central Coast Mariners

Central Coast Mariners fans will have the opportunity to leave Central Coast Stadium with a brand new car at this Sunday's match against the Perth Glory. The club, in conjunction with Central Coast Stadium, announced one lucky patron will receive a Hyundai Getz at the game.

The car will go to the millionth patron to pass through the turnstiles of Gosford's idyllic bayside venue, who is anticipated to arrive before the start of the Mariners' Round Eight clash.

Supporters on hand at Central Coast Stadium will also be in the running to win a family pass to November's highly anticipated World Cup qualifier at Telstra Stadium between the Qantas Socceroos and the fifth-placed South American qualifier.



Mariners assistant coach Alex Tobin with Nik Kenny during a coaching session for Kincumber soccer club at Central Coast Stadium.

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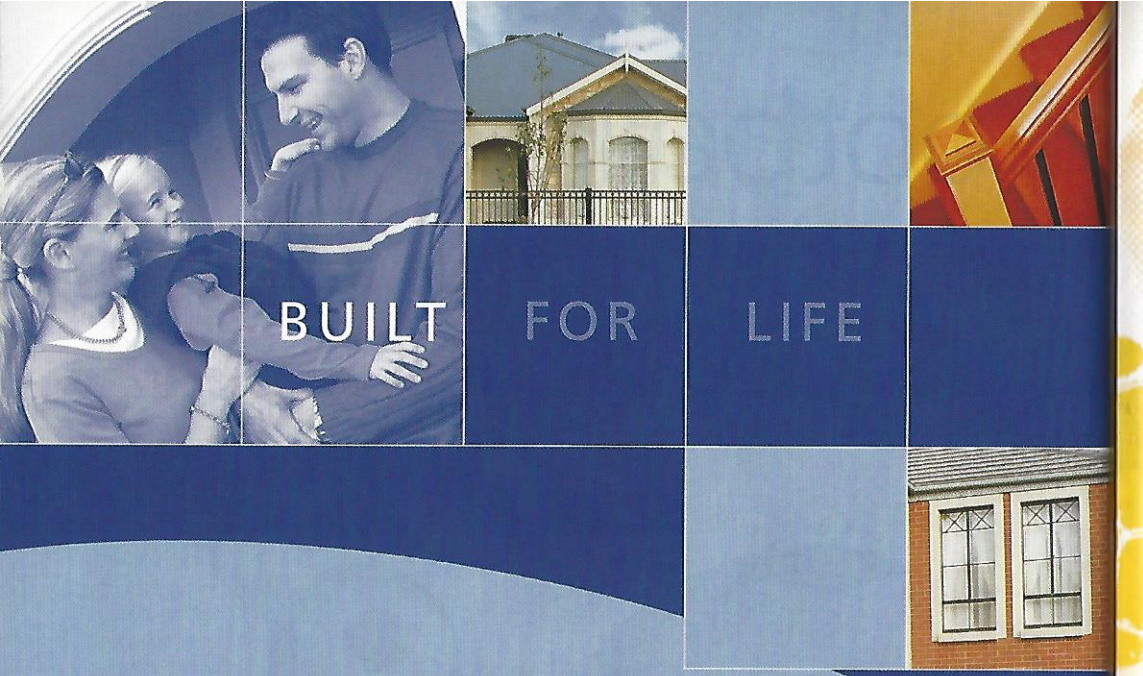
SYDNEY FC



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2006 World Cup Qualifying
European Qualifying Zone

Group One
Czech Republic 0 The Netherlands 2
Finland 0 Romania 1

Group Two
Georgia 0 Kazakhstan 0
Ukraine 2 Albania 2
Denmark 1 Greece 0

Group Three
Portugal 2 Liechtenstein 1
Slovakia 1 Estonia 0
Russia 5 Luxembourg 1

Group Four
Israel 2 Faroe Islands 1
Switzerland 1 France 1
Cyprus 0 Republic of Ireland 1

Group Five
Italy 1 Slovenia 0
Norway 1 Moldova 0
Scotland 0 Belarus 1

Group Six
Northern Ireland 2 Wales 3
England 1 Austria 0

Group Seven
Belgium 0 Spain 2
Lithuania 0 Serbia-Montenegro 2
Bosnia-Hercegovina 3 San Marino 0

Group Eight
Croatia 1 Sweden 0
Bulgaria 2 Hungary 0

Indicates qualified for the 2006 World Cup.

England celebrates a goal.

Continued page 60

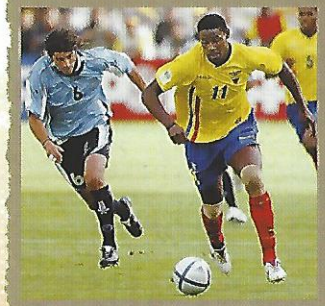
Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Group 1							
Netherlands	11	10	1	0	27	3	31
Romania	12	8	1	3	20	10	25
Czech Republic	11	8	0	3	32	12	24
Finland	11	5	1	5	21	16	16
Macedonia	11	2	2	7	11	24	8
Andorra	11	1	2	8	4	31	5
Armenia	11	1	1	9	6	25	4
Group 2							
Ukraine	12	7	4	1	18	7	25
Turkey	11	5	5	1	22	9	20
Denmark	11	5	4	2	22	11	19
Greece	11	5	3	3	14	9	18
Albania	11	4	1	6	11	19	11
Georgia	11	2	4	5	14	24	10
Kazakhstan	11	0	1	10	5	27	1
Group 3							
Portugal	11	8	3	0	32	5	27
Slovakia	11	6	4	1	24	8	22
Russia	11	6	4	1	23	12	22
Latvia	11	4	3	4	18	18	15
Estonia	11	4	2	5	14	17	14
Liechtenstein	12	2	2	8	13	23	8
Luxembourg	11	0	0	11	5	46	0
Group 4							
Israel	10	4	6	0	15	10	18
Switzerland	9	4	5	0	18	7	17
France	9	4	5	0	10	2	17
Ireland	9	4	4	1	12	5	16
Cyprus	9	1	1	7	8	16	4
Faroe Islands	10	0	1	9	4	27	1
Group 5							
Italy	9	6	2	1	15	7	20
Norway	9	4	3	2	11	7	15
Slovenia	9	3	3	3	10	10	12
Belarus	9	2	4	3	12	13	10
Scotland	9	2	4	3	6	7	10
Moldova	9	1	2	6	4	14	5

European Qualifying Zone (continued)

Group 6							
Poland	9	8	0	1	26	7	24
England	9	7	1	1	15	4	22
Austria	9	3	3	3	13	12	12
NorthernIreland	9	2	3	4	10	16	9
Wales	9	1	2	6	8	15	5
Azerbaijan	9	0	3	6	1	19	3
Group 7							
Serbia-Montenegro	9	5	4	0	15	1	19
Spain	9	4	5	0	13	3	17
Bosnia-Hercegovina	9	4	4	1	12	8	16
Belgium	9	3	2	4	15	10	11
Lithuania	9	2	3	4	7	8	9
San Marino	9	0	0	9	2	34	0
Group 8							
Croatia	9	7	2	0	21	5	23
Sweden	9	7	0	2	27	3	21
Bulgaria	9	4	2	3	16	16	14
Hungary	9	4	1	4	13	14	13
Iceland	9	1	1	7	13	24	4
Malta	9	0	2	7	3	31	2

South American Qualifying Zone

Colombia 1 Chile 1
Ecuador 0 Uruguay 0
Venezuela 0 Paraguay 1
Bolivia 1 Brazil 1



Ecuador's Tin Delgado outpaces Urugruay's Diego Lopez.

Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	17	8	6	1	31	16	31
Argentina	16	9	4	3	27	16	31
Paraguay	17	8	4	5	23	22	28
Ecuador	17	8	3	6	23	19	27
Uruguay	17	5	7	5	22	28	22
Colombia	17	5	6	6	23	16	21
Chile	17	5	6	6	18	22	21
Venezuela	17	5	3	9	20	25	18
Peru	16	3	6	7	16	25	15
Bolivia	17	4	2	11	18	32	14

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE

TOTAL FOOTBALL

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African Qualifying Zone

Group A
Congo 2 Togo 3
Senegal 3 Mali 0
Group B
Cape Verde Islands 0 Ghana 4
South Africa 2 DR Congo 2
Uganda 2 Burkina Faso 2
Group C
Benin 1 Libya 0
Sudan 1 Ivory Coast 3
Cameroon 1 Egypt 1
Group D
Gabon 0 Algeria 0
Nigeria 5 Zimbabwe 1
Rwanda 0 Angola 1
Group E
Tunisia 2 Morocco 2
Botswana 1 Guinea 2
Malawi 3 Kenya 0

Costa Rica's Paulo Wanchope celebrates scoring against the US.

Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Group A							
Togo10	7	2	1	20	8	23	
Senegal	10	6	3	1	21	8	21
Zambia	10	6	1	3	16	10	19
Congo	10	3	1	6	10	14	10
Mali	10	2	2	6	11	14	8
Liberia	10	1	1	8	3	27	4
Group B							
Ghana	10	6	3	1	17	4	21
DR Congo	10	4	4	2	14	10	16
South Africa	10	5	1	4	12	14	16
Burkina Faso	10	4	1	5	14	13	13
Cape Verde Islands	10	3	1	6	8	15	10
Uganda	10	2	2	6	6	15	8
Group C							
Ivory Coast	10	7	1	2	20	7	22
Cameroon	10	6	3	1	18	10	21
Egypt	10	5	2	3	26	15	17
Libya	10	3	3	4	8	10	12
Sudan	10	1	3	6	6	22	6
Benin	10	1	2	7	9	23	5
Group D							
Angola	10	6	3	1	12	6	21
Nigeria	10	6	3	1	21	7	21
Zimbabwe	10	4	3	3	13	14	15
Gabon	10	2	4	4	11	13	10
Algeria	10	1	5	4	8	15	8
Rwanda	10	1	2	7	6	16	5
Group E							
Tunisia	10	6	3	1	25	9	21
Morocco	10	5	5	0	17	7	20
Guinea	10	5	2	3	15	10	17
Kenya	10	3	1	6	8	17	10
Botswana	10	3	0	7	10	18	9
Malawi	10	1	3	6	12	26	6

CONCACAF Qualifying Zone

Costa Rica 3 United States 0
Mexico 5 Guatemala 2
Panama 0 Trinidad and Tobago 1

Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	9	7	1	1	21	7	22
USA	9	6	1	2	14	6	19
Costa Rica	9	5	1	3	14	11	16
Trinidad and Tobago	9	3	1	5	8	14	10
Guatemala	9	2	2	5	13	17	8
Panama	9	0	2	7	4	19	2

All tables correct at October 10, 2005

HYUNDAI
A-LEAGUE

THE HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE RECOGNISES THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF ITS PARTNERS.

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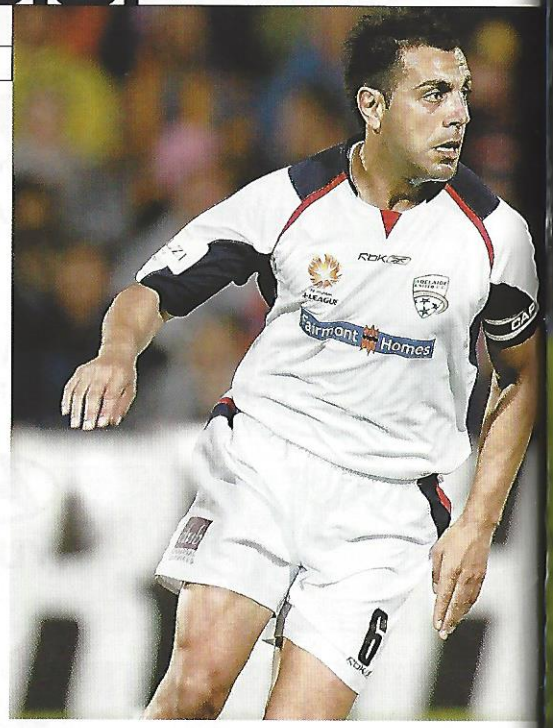
ROSS ALOISI

CLUB: Adelaide United **POSITION:** Midfielder



After playing in six different countries, Ross Aloisi is rapt to be back in Adelaide captaining the league's early leaders. **Marlo Dangerfield** finds out why life is so good.

What's the best thing about being Adelaide United captain?
Definitely leading my team onto the field in front of a home crowd. This is the team I love and grew up with.

What about the captain's armband? Are there Hyundai A-League issue armbands or can you choose your own?
The club bought three of them. One is white with black stripes, one is black, and one has captain written on it in very big red letters.

Which one did you go for?
I went with the all-black one, because it is the newest.

You've played in Australia, Belgium, France, Austria, Switzerland and Italy. Do you know anyone who's played in more places?
You forgot Malaysia. I can't think of anyone who's played in more countries, but (Adelaide assistant coach) Aurelio Vidmar has played in a lot of places.

Which place did you most like to live in?
Different places for different reasons. In France, the training is the best and I learnt a lot of tactics. I had the best part of my career in Switzerland and was voted the most valuable player of my team. But the lifestyle is best in Italy.

Did they give you strange nicknames?
Yeah, I got "Kangaroo" a lot.

You played for a club called Boom in Belgium. Is that the best club name ever?
That's pretty good, and in Switzerland I played for "the Aarau" – what's with the double "a"?

Who is the best James Bond?
Sean Connery.

Who should play James Bond next?
Um ... Robbie Williams.

What superstitions do you have?
I always wear black jocks in a game.

Why? To go with your new armband?
No, my grandma told me to always wear black jocks. I have no idea why, but I do what she said anyway.

Great to talk to you
No worries. See you soon.

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